

The Times
SaturdayDames for
a laugh

Yes, it's that time again: the Review strolls down pantomime's memory lane plus, in our Weekend Living pages, the best pantos around the country

Review

Software and
Sam Spade

Jules Kroll runs an international private detective agency whose success owes more to computers than guns and gumshoes

WEEKEND
LIVINGCompletely
off the hook

Jo Cutmore and her husband are executive headhunters whose weekend escape is to a part of Norfolk that doesn't even have a cellular phone link. Now that's remote

SPORT

Clash of
the titans

Spurs manager Terry Venables on tomorrow's Arsenal-Liverpool game: the match of the season?

WEEKEND
MONEYElectricity
shares offer

A look at the twelve regional electricity companies, in which, from Monday, Portfolio Platinum competitors can win 100 shares in addition to the cash prize

HIMES

Striking the
right note

Win an electric piano in our magazine for young readers. Plus the hitch-hiker's guide to ecology

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Baghdad hails "victory for humanity"

Bush ready to
send envoy
for Iraq talks

FROM PETER STOTHARD, US EDITOR, IN WASHINGTON AND NICHOLAS BEESTON IN BAGHDAD

PRESIDENT Bush yesterday made a dramatic offer of direct talks with President Saddam Hussein to bring a peaceful end to the Gulf confrontation, in a move hailed in Baghdad as a victory for humanity.

Speaking in the White House, Mr Bush said that he was prepared to send James Baker, the US Secretary of State, on a mission to Baghdad between December 15 and January 15, the date on which the United Nations mandate for the use of force begins.

In a reversal of American policy towards high-level talks between the two countries, Mr Bush also invited Iraq's foreign minister, Tariq Aziz, to Washington for meetings with himself and representatives of the international alliance. This meeting could take place in the week beginning December 10.

Mr Bush said that he was prepared to take "the extra step" because President

Saddam appeared still not to understand the seriousness of his position. He promised that if war did break out it would not be fought with half-measures. He promised that it would be no Vietnam and that there would be "no murky ending".

In reply to domestic critics who have been counselling patience, Mr Bush said that "we have been patient" but that "time is running out". He said that he would not recall Congress to debate a declaration of war but he called upon Congress itself to convene in order to back the UN resolution on the use of force.

He warned the legislators against sending any signals to the Iraqi leader that might seem to show a weakening of resolve.

Asked if his diplomatic initiatives, which he said were his own decision, might themselves be taken as a sign of weakness in Baghdad, Mr Bush said that he was more worried that they would be seen as an ultimatum. He said that he was not sure that President Saddam would agree to see Mr Baker but "I

want him to be sure how strongly the President of the United States feels". The aim of the new diplomacy, he said, was to achieve Iraq's unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait.

There will be no concessions, no face-saving offers, he promised. "I want him to see Baker one-on-one, look him straight in the eyes".

Mr Bush had been clearly buoyed by the success of the UN resolution on the use of force on Thursday. After a week in which his administration appeared to be losing the argument about the merits of peace and war, he decisively referred to the continuing sessions of the Senate Armed Services Committee as "endless hearings by endless experts".

Yesterday, retired Lieutenant-general William Odom, the latest in a long stream of former officials, kept up the campaign that America should continue its present defensive position in Saudi Arabia rather than wage war against Iraq.

Last night the Iraqi regime was visibly ecstatic at the prospects of dialogue and the regime will almost certainly embrace the offer and claim it as a vindication of its policy over Kuwait.

Iraq has consistently called for dialogue over the stalemate in the Gulf, while Washington until yesterday insisted that no talks were possible while Iraqi occupation forces remained in Kuwait.

"This is not only a victory for the Iraqi people it is a victory for humanity," said one Iraqi source echoing the reaction among several officials in Baghdad.

However, one senior Iraqi official added that problems could arise over opening negotiations with the US while security council resolution 678 was still in place.

"Talks as serious as this will take weeks and weeks and it would not be constructive to have a clock ticking in the background," said the official referring to the ultimatum.

Britain was informed in advance of President Bush's invitation to Mr Aziz, according to Whitehall sources. The Foreign Office statement said: "Anything that would secure full implementation of the security council resolution is to be welcomed."

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Saddam's friends, page 11
Resolution attacked, page 11
Leading article, page 17

War forgotten in
a day at the races

FROM NICHOLAS BEESTON IN BAGHDAD

THE threat of all-out war is not enough to rattle Baghdad's long-suffering residents, who appeared largely oblivious yesterday to the ultimatum handed to Iraq by the world powers. While the Iraqi leader met in emergency session with his senior colleagues, his countrymen flocked to racetrack and amusement park, and some of his foreign "guests" even took part in Baghdad's annual marathon.

"When you walk in here you forget all about the politics outside," said Faidi, president of the Mansour racecourse which for 40 years has provided a badly-needed escape from reality. "Here, the only thing we do is talk and think about horses."

Ibrahim, a British-trained doctor, aged 40 and a regular punter, slapped his betting slip with disgust when Kamal Al-Tanaya, a two-year-old Arabian thoroughbred, came first in the 2.20 after some highly dubious tactics by his Sudanese jockey in the home straight. "I never saw anything like that when I went racing in Britain," he complained.

Even Tariq, the harman at the owners' enclosure who until the invasion on August 2 had a well-paid job in Kuwait, was only mildly interested in the UN security council vote.

In Baghdad there are no civil defence exercises to prepare the population against an air strike, no sandbags around vulnerable buildings, and the only indications of an imminent conflict are the crowds of reservists registering at recruitment offices.

However, young men are lining up in their hundreds to get married before being sent to the front in Kuwait.

Even the foreign detainees appear to have taken the UN ultimatum in their stride, and yesterday 35 Westerners, including Britons, Irishmen and even one Russian turned up for the eighth annual Baghdad marathon. "It's not as good as last year, because the good French and German runners have all been allowed to go home," said Pat McGlynn, the Irish race winner who finished in 3 hrs 10 mins along a course plotted to avoid sensitive government buildings.

Two jailed over shares fraud

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

A LANDLORD was sentenced to 2½ years imprisonment and fined £157,000 yesterday for making multiple applications in government privatisation issues, the heaviest sentence yet delivered for such an offence.

The punishment coincides with the sell-off of the 12 electricity supply companies in England and Wales, which closes on Wednesday. The £5.2 billion flotation is the largest since the privatisation of the water industry, also for £5.2 billion, last autumn.

Michael Row, aged 41, from Brighton made profits estimated at £200,000 from his dealings. He was caught when

Touche Ross, a firm of accountants policing the issue using computer matching techniques, picked out similarities in some of the 1,097 applications he made for British Gas shares. A co-defendant, Jonathan Roberts, aged 36, a former barrister, of Peaslake, near Guildford, Surrey was sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment and fined £100,000.

The 2½ year sentence is among the heaviest handed down against City crime. Gerald Ronson received a 12-month term and a £5 million fine for his part in the illegal Guinness share support operation. Ernest Saunders, the

company's former chairman and chief executive was jailed for five years and Anthony Parnes, a stockbroker, was jailed for 2½ years.

Judge Robin Laurie, passing sentence at Southwark Crown Court, said: "It seems to me that the sentence of this court must be on a level to make clear... that ordinary decent people in this country will not stand for this."

Roberts' wife, Janet Thain, said he planned to appeal against both his conviction and sentence.

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Power sell-off, page 43
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One small step to print a footnote in history

By MICHAEL DYNES
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Hamlen, a 58-year-old construction engineer from Bristol, will secure a place in history today after becoming the first Englishman to travel between France and Britain using the Channel tunnel.

He will make the 38-mile journey between the two terminal sites at Coquelles and Cheriton at the same time as Robert Houbion, his French counterpart, sets off in the other direction.

Mr Hamlen is expected to arrive at the Eurotunnel exhibition centre at Cheriton, near Folkestone, about 2.15pm. He

construction workers selected to make the final link-up between Britain and France will use jack-hammers to make a hole between the two tunnel sections. When it is big enough for them to see each other face-to-face, they will shake hands, exchange a Union Jack and Tricolour, and drink champagne.

It is thought the French connection will be made about midday by Philippe Cozette, a bulky 37-year-old tunneller from Calais, whose grasp of the English language is reputed to extend to the two choice phrases: "how are you?" and "here is a cake."

The hole will then be made big enough

breakthrough will be broadcast by ITN, which has secured exclusive television rights for an undisclosed fee.

The meeting will be the culmination of a 200-year dream to link the British Isles to the European Continent, which began in 1802 when Albert Mathieu, one of Napoleon Bonaparte's engineers, proposed a bold, if impractical, scheme.

Mr Hamlen, who is married with three sons, has worked on construction projects all over the world. But the Channel tunnel project "will be the highlight of my career," he said.

"I have been working on this job for five years, and this breakthrough is



Out with the old: Norman Major in Downing Street yesterday. Image-makers, page 3

Major
promotes
young
blood

By RICHARD FORD
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE prime minister last night highlighted his concern for the sporting prowess of the nation's youth by shifting responsibility for sport from the environment to the education department.

John Major also introduced younger blood into the government with the appointment of three backbench MPs, including a woman, to their first ministerial jobs. The changes involved the promotion of two of Douglas Hurd's supporters, showing the prime minister's desire for unity. Mr Major is expected to announce further changes to his government on Monday.

Robert Atkins retains his job as sports minister, but responsibility for sport is moved to the education and science department. A Downing Street spokesman said that this reflected the prime minister's interest in sport, particularly among young people.

Tim Yeo, aged 45, parliamentary private secretary to Douglas Hurd, joins the environment department as a parliamentary under secretary. Ann Widdicombe, aged 43, who supported Mr Hurd in the leadership contest, becomes a parliamentary under secretary at the social security department. Michael Jack, aged 44, joins the social security department as a junior minister.

Sport on the move, page 31

Hurd to set out
European policy

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Major has acted to end the divisions over Europe among his ministers and backbenchers that underlay Margaret Thatcher's downfall.

The prime minister has asked Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, to go ahead with a policy paper on Britain's attitude towards the European Community that will provide a pointer to the government's approach in the sensitive negotiations beginning in Rome in less than two weeks on closer union.

Government sources disclosed that the decision to proceed with the document, first hinted at by Mr Hurd two weeks ago, was taken at Thursday's cabinet. It is assumed in the Foreign Office that the document will be published, but this was not confirmed by Downing Street sources.

Earlier this week Mr Hurd said he had not been able to win Mrs Thatcher's agreement to publication of what would effectively be a white paper on Europe. All resistance to the document apparently evaporated at the first cabinet meeting over by Mr Major.

Ministers discussed the Rome inter-governmental conferences (IGCs) on political, economic and monetary union on Thursday. According to government sources, Mr Major then asked Mr Hurd to produce the document.

It is understood that the Foreign Office is trying to meet the December 14 deadline for the opening of the IGCs. However, given the complexity of the issues to be covered and the need to take the paper through the usual policy-making process of cabi-

net committee, it may not appear until the new year. Foreign Office sources said that Mr Hurd would not be stampeded into producing an ill-prepared text.

Labour, which is moving towards acceptance of a single currency, yesterday dismissed the government's move as an

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Soviet
leader
'prisoner
in the
Kremlin'

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY
IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Gorbachev yesterday postponed without explanation a visit to the troubled republic of Moldavia. The postponement, less than 24 hours after the visit had been announced, is seen as a public relations disaster and a symptom of the Soviet leader's political weakness.

A spokesman for the president said: "The trip was planned, but for certain reasons it was postponed."

The Moldavian president, Mircea Snegur, was reported to have told the republic's parliament that Mr Gorbachev had cancelled after learning that deputies from the minority Russian and Turkish populations intended to boycott his speech to parliament. Mr Snegur said: "The president expressed indignation at the activities of the extremists and assessed their behaviour as a lack of respect." No new date has been set for the visit.

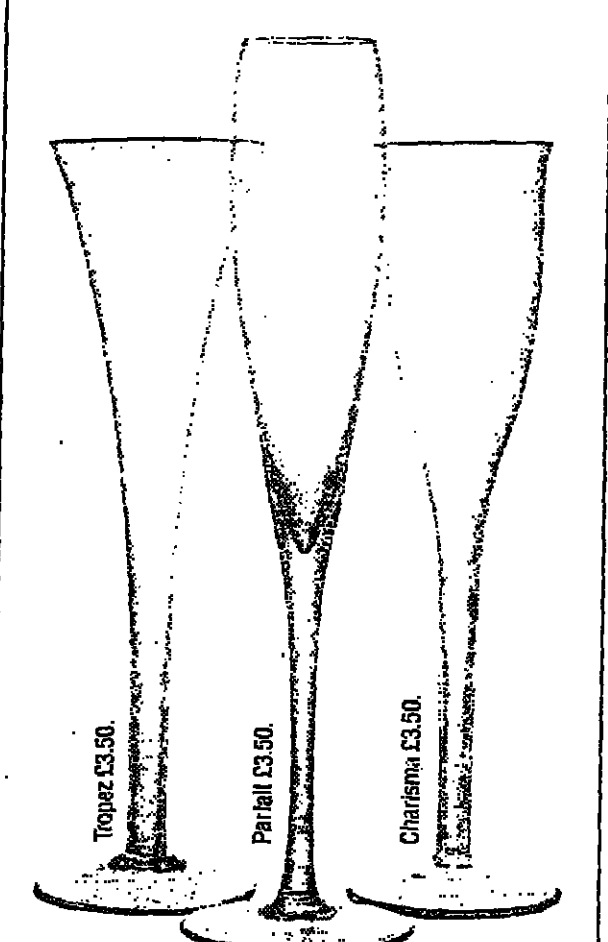
Tass had announced Mr Gorbachev's intention to visit Moldavia late on Thursday and the one-day visit was planned for yesterday. It had been in the offing since the Moldavian parliament issued an invitation during conflicts between the republic's three main ethnic groups - Romanians, Turks and Russians - last month.

The ethnic Romanian Popular Front movement, which suspects Moscow of trying to thwart the republic's demands for autonomy by playing the Romanian majority off against the other two ethnic groups, had threatened a big protest demonstration if Mr Gorbachev came. There was speculation that the Moldavian authorities might have been unable to guarantee the president's security.

The visit would have been Mr Gorbachev's first trip to another Soviet republic since his attempt to deflect Lithuania from independence in January. Since then, he has made only one other domestic trip to the Urals city of Sverdlovsk. During both visits he was confronted with angry crowds. The impression being created is that Mr Gorbachev is a prisoner in the Kremlin, unable either to exert his authority elsewhere in the country or to travel safely within its borders.

The situation in Kishinev is still volatile after the return of ethnic Romanian volunteer groups, armed mostly with

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Food rationing, page 12

GLASSES AT
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Heseltine searches for a poll tax solution to satisfy everyone



Heseltine preparing to study local tax options

MICHAEL Heseltine, the environment secretary, will this weekend be immersing himself in the latest position papers on the poll tax prepared for his predecessor, Chris Patten, by his civil servants. The issues of local taxation are complicated enough, but they are made worse by the need to neutralise the issue before a general election. Mr Heseltine needs to find both a short-term and a long-term solution.

In the short term, any solution involves extra government money aimed with precision at the households and individuals who lost most from the move away from the rates. Many of the heaviest losers are in work, on middle or lower incomes, and living in relatively small properties. Often they are owner-occupiers or recent purchasers of council homes — classical marginal voters concentrated in many key constituencies in the North and the Midlands. The best short-term way of putting money back in the pockets of the biggest losers is to

As the new environment secretary Michael Heseltine sets about the delicate task of defusing the poll tax 'bomb' Tony Travers outlines the various options open to him

extend the so-called "transitional relief" scheme, introduced for 1990 at the last moment, when backbench MPs realised just how badly many of their constituents would be hit by the new tax. Following the political revolt in the spring of this year, the Government has announced that the scheme will be slightly more generous in 1991.

But even the 1991 transitional relief will leave millions of individuals with local tax bills much higher than under the rates. To appease them, more will have to be given in transitional relief to those who already qualify. Many others will have to receive relief for the first time. The full cost is impossible to calculate precisely, though £2 billion might be

needed. The rebate scheme could also be made more generous, to help the poorest nine million poll tax payers. More people could be made eligible for rebates. Some might be let off the tax.

All of this would, of course, further add to the extra costs of short-term reforms. Though, through charge capping, the government would be able to prevent the extra simply leading to local government spending more. However, these immediate changes would damage the accountability which the government wanted to achieve with the community charge.

These short-term measures might hold the line, but in the long-term, Mr Heseltine will have to search for a new, or radically

changed, system of local government finance. It would be impractical to expect legislation to be on the statute book before the next election, so proposals will presumably be included in the Conservatives' next manifesto. Reforms might then be enacted in 1992 or 1993.

What are the options? They appear to be:

□ to keep the community charge, though with a range of "temporary" reliefs and benefits in place;

□ to keep the charge, though at very much lower levels of tax than at present. This reduction could be achieved by taking education (and possibly other services) out of local control. To cut the average charge in half, to about £200, would however be equivalent to about 3p or 4p on basic rate income tax.

□ to alter the charge radically, so that it varies depending upon what band of income the poll tax payer falls into. Mr Heseltine wrote supporting such a notion in

The Times earlier this year. People with no taxable income would pay a fraction of the standard level of charge, while those on higher incomes might pay twice the standard level.

□ to abandon the charge altogether and return to the previous system of domestic rates. This could be done in the first year after legislation had been passed through Parliament, and it would be possible — though administratively expensive — to keep a small flat-rate add-on charge for all non-householders.

□ to abandon the charge and introduce a new system of domestic property tax based on the capital values of housing, as opposed to the rental values upon which the old rating system stood. Nigel Lawson has revealed that the Treasury had such a plan though he still wanted to remove education from local financial control.

□ to abandon the charge and introduce one or more other taxes, such as local income tax or

sales tax. Ministers have rejected such schemes in the past because of the economic impact and administrative complexity. □ to abandon the charge and finance the whole of local government spending out of central sources. Losing £14 billion in local tax would require an increase in national taxation equivalent to about 7p on income tax.

All these options have profound political and constitutional implications because of their impact on the relationship between central and local government. The debate is only just beginning.

Mr Heseltine yesterday admitted his job of sorting out the poll tax could take time. "It has to be done carefully," he said. He was speaking as he arrived to address Tories in Monmouth, Gwent, his first public engagement since returning to the Cabinet.

Tony Travers is Director of Research at the London School of Economics.

Labour shrugs off trimmed majority in double victory

By KERRY GILL

THE Labour party yesterday sought to make the best of a victory in which it won the Paisley North and Paisley South by-elections, although it saw its majorities savaged by the Scottish National party.

Donald Dewar, Labour's Scottish spokesman, said that the nationalists had failed in their challenge and the Conservatives had had a miserable night. He shrugged off his party's lacklustre performance.

"We were there to be shot at," he said. "There was a lot of flak coming at us from every direction, so it was an extremely good result for us."

"Our prospects remain extremely bright and we face the next few months with great confidence," Mr Dewar said. He claimed the Tories had done badly in Paisley at the 1987 general election and had repeated their poor showing in the by-elections. "Signs of a Tory revival are really just optimistic nonsense. The Major factor was not a major factor. The Tories were seen as irrelevant."

The Tories were relieved that their vote held up almost to the level of the general election. Early in the campaign there had been talk that their candidates could lose

their deposits. Chris Patten, the Conservative party chairman, said the results showed "a substantial increase in the Conservative share of the vote. It is good news and a challenge for us to sustain that over the next few months". Lord Sanderson, the party's Scottish chairman, said: "I do think John Major will improve our chances in Scotland and these results are a small but significant start."

The promised breakthrough by the nationalists failed to materialise. The early bandwagon ground to a halt, outshone by national events and obviously bogged down by the SNP's campaign for non-payment of the poll tax. The campaign backfired with too many people angered that their bills will rise next year to take account of the level of non-payment.

Irene Adams, the new Paisley North MP, said: "One of the things which crushed the SNP was their poll tax stance. People were very, very annoyed by it. I think that was proved when they dumped the policy halfway through the campaign. That decision had nothing to do with Mr Major but had everything to do with the results the SNP were getting on the doorsteps." It

was, however, a reasonable performance by the SNP. The nationalists saw a swing of 14 per cent to themselves from Labour in Paisley North, and an 11.8 per cent swing in Paisley South. Alex Salmond, the party leader, said the swing to the SNP had put its policy of independence in Europe centre stage in the coming general election.

Yesterday the Scottish Constitutional Convention issued its blueprint for a Scottish parliament with the publication of *Towards Scotland's Parliament*, which has been 18 months in the making. Its members, the Labour party, the Liberal Democrats, trade unionists, churchmen and councillors, hope to widen the debate into the public arena in time for the next general election. The nationalists have boycotted the convention and the Tories have labelled it a gutless talking shop.

Mr Salmond challenged the convention leaders to agree to a multi-option referendum. That would ask Scots whether they wanted limited devolution, a retention of the status quo or full independence within Europe. Mr Dewar has called his demand opportunistic and hypocritical.



Victory salute: Mrs Adams acknowledging supporters after winning Paisley North "One of the things which crushed the SNP was their poll tax stance," she said

Paisley polls leave Kinnock no room for complacency

By JOHN CURTICE

ALTHOUGH Labour safely retained both seats in Paisley, the result increases doubts about the party's general election prospects. The result also shows that the Scottish nationalists are back in the centre of Scottish politics, if not yet in a position to repeat their October 1974 breakthrough, and Margaret Thatcher's removal from No 10 has given the Conservatives an electoral boost.

Although avoiding a repeat of the Govan disaster, Labour's vote fell heavily in both constituencies. The party could claim that both seats were safe and that it had made substantial progress in both areas at the last general election, but Labour should have been held on to its vote.

Spokesmen for the party have claimed that Scottish by-elections are more difficult for Labour to fight than those in England because of the nationalists' ability to win the protest vote. Labour's performance was rather bad, however, even by recent Scottish by-elections standards. Its support fell more than in both Glasgow Central last year and in three of the four Scottish by-elections held in the 1979-83 Parliament. The Labour vote was also five points lower than the regional election results in Paisley in May.

Rather than just showing a specific Scottish difficulty, the results seem to confirm that Labour popularity has waned in the wake of the Tory leadership change. The NOP/BBC exit poll in Paisley North suggested that one reason might be doubts about Neil Kinnock's leadership. One in five of those who said they had voted for the party said he was either "not very good" or "not at all good", while only 2 per cent of Conservative voters said the same of John Major.

The nationalists' by-election performance in this Parliament is more consistent than at any time since 1970-4. They have made substantial

gains in Labour territory in four by-elections and, according to the BBC exit poll, more than a third of the party's support came from former Labour voters.

In Paisley South, however, the nationalists' performance was weaker than in Glasgow Central last year, but their "can't pay, won't pay" poll tax campaign seems to have done rather less damage than had seemed likely.

It is true that only 24 per cent of Paisley North voters told NOP they supported the nationalists' line, while 54 per cent accepted Labour's position that although the tax is unfair it should be paid, but 30 per cent of Labour voters accepted the nationalists' argument, suggesting that their campaign did not present a barrier to Labour voters.

Some of the Scottish nationalists' support was undoubtedly a protest vote. The exit poll suggested the vote would have been five points lower in a general election. However, since it has been consistently scoring about a fifth of the vote in the Scottish polls for more than two years, and 37 per cent of the electorate favours independence either in or outside Europe, the nationalists are in a good position to improve their vote of 14 per cent in 1987.

The Conservatives started the campaign fearing a lost deposit and ended up with their best by-election performance for eight years. Not since the Cotnam and Airdrie by-election of June 1982 — held in the immediate wake of the Falklands war — has the Tory vote fallen by as little as one point.

Repeated across Scotland, the party's Paisley performance would still give them only 14 seats, and Ian Lang, the Scottish secretary, would lose his Galloway seat to the nationalists.

John Curtice is senior lecturer in Politics at the University of Strathclyde.

PAISLEY IN PERSPECTIVE

Change in % vote since 1987

	Con	Lab	Lib/Dem	SNP
1988 Glasgow Govan	-4.6	-27.8	-8.2	+38.4
June 1989 Glasgow Central	-5.4	-9.9	-9.0	+20.2
Nov 1989 Paisley North	-1.0	-11.5	-7.5	+16.4
Nov 1989 Paisley South	-1.3	-10.0	-5.3	+13.5

Major pleads for Heseltine backers

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE prime minister will appeal for party unity next week in an attempt to end conflict in a number of constituencies where supporters of Mr Heseltine face the possibility of being deselected by activists loyal to Mrs Thatcher.

Mr Major's attempt to restore harmony will be made at a meeting in London on Tuesday when he will, under Conservative rules, be presented for confirmation as party leader.

A senior aide said: "He is not a vengeful person. He will try to get that message across." Kenneth Baker, the former party chairman and his successor, Chris Patten, have also appealed for peace and harmony, but stressed that they have little power to intervene to halt any moves towards deselection MPs.

Several prominent backbench supporters of Mr Heseltine are facing difficulties with their local constituency associations for supporting the former defence secretary, Michael Mates, the MP for East Hampshire, faces a resolution calling for the start of a selection procedure to choose a new candidate for his seat on December 17. In Bexleyheath, the Conservative agent has had 500 telephone calls and 200 letters about the leadership. Most oppose the action of the MP, Cyril Townsend, who backed Mr Heseltine.

The local association will hold a meeting on January 3 to discuss the leadership election, and Mr Townsend will be asked to explain his actions. "We cannot brush this under the carpet as it would blow up again in six or nine months' time," Mr Alec Mayne, the agent, said.

Yesterday Gerry Neale, a member of Mrs Thatcher's campaign team was in the Torridge and West Devon constituency where the MP Emma Nicholson has been criticised for switching her support from Mrs Thatcher to Mr Heseltine. Although the constituency agent has received phone calls and letters calling for Miss Nicholson to be deselected, Mr Neale urged reconciliation and unity.

Calls have been made for the resignation of Sir Peter Tapsell, MP for East Lindsey, Lincolnshire, who nominated Mr Heseltine in the leadership contest. Some party members say that his role in Mrs Thatcher's fall from power was unforgivable.

Souvenir hunter left PM speechless

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Major was temporarily lost for words at his first speaking engagement as prime minister, it was disclosed yesterday.

After his nervous debut at the Commons dispatch box on Thursday, Mr Major fumbled another chance when he rose to speak to the annual dinner of Altrincham and Sale Conservatives around 10pm that day.

The text of his speech, distributed to political reporters in London more than a hour before, had mysteriously disappeared from the table at which the prime minister was sitting with Sir Fergus Montgomery, the local MP, and Beryl Collins, chairman of the association. Mr Major told the 220 guests at the Cresta Court hotel, Altrincham, that somebody had apparently walked off with his speech.

"It wasn't a very good speech anyway," he joked. "Never mind, I'll give another one." His audience was not disappointed. The prime minister spoke

off-the-cuff and, according to the Tory central office press officer with him, covered the areas set out in his text.

"Only the words were slightly different. The sentiment was the same," his press officer said. The missing text was not found.

Mr Major had been signing programmes and menus for the party faithful before finding himself in the predicament every after-dinner speaker dreads. It is thought that a particularly enthusiastic souvenir hunter was responsible.

Mr Major was fulfilling an engagement made two years ago, when he was chief secretary to the Treasury. He had had to cancel it once because it clashed with the budget.

The prime minister's awkward moment was confirmed by government sources. They said that he frequently ad-libbed at such gatherings and that reporters should take care to check his words against a printed text. That would

have proved difficult in Altrincham, however, since the press was excluded from the dinner.

"He very rarely sticks to the text. He tends to ad lib. He was forced to ad lib rather more than usual last night," a senior government source said yesterday.

Mr Major's supposed remarks, in which he set out his vision of a softer, more compassionate Conservatism and struck a more positive attitude towards Europe than his predecessor, were widely reported on the front pages of yesterday's newspapers.

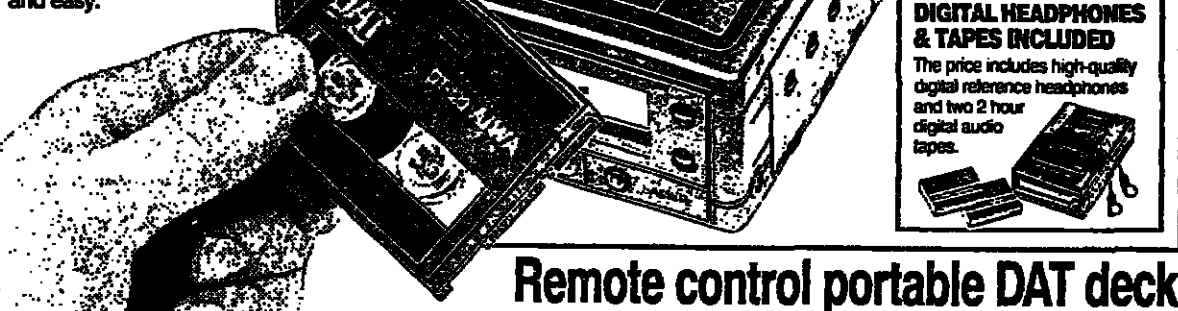
Only 220 Tories know whether the papers were telling the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

Mr Major's discomfiture paled into insignificance alongside the indignity once visited on Sir Geoffrey Howe, however, whose Commons speech paved the way for the former chancellor's accession. He once lost his trousers on a train in China.

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Major pledges to keep Wakeham in gender battle

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Major's cabinet reshuffle ran into further difficulty last night when it was disclosed that he had been forced to reassure John Wakeham that his position was not in jeopardy.

Speculation that the energy secretary might step down to make way for Lynda Chalker in the cabinet after electricity privatisation provoked a personal telephone call from the prime minister to one of the government's longest-serving and most senior ministers. Mr Major told Mr Wakeham that it was ludicrous that there should be any doubt about his position in the upper echelons of the government.

Rumours about Mr Wakeham's long-term future were fuelled at Westminster by the mystery over the reasons for Mrs Chalker's two apparently fruitless visits to Downing Street earlier this week as the prime minister set about restructuring the administration he inherited from Margaret Thatcher.

Yesterday, that puzzle was solved when Mrs Chalker, on a working holiday in Paris, issued a statement indicating that she had turned down the offer of a move to a party post from her ministerial slot at the overseas development department. Her statement did nothing to stop the Labour

onslaught on Mr Major's decision to appoint the first all-male cabinet in a generation.

Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, accused Mr Major of turning the cabinet into a women-free zone. "He had better wake up to the fact that now, in the 1990s, it is simply not acceptable for a prime minister in a democracy to exclude women from being in the cabinet. Women are taxpayers, they are supposed to be equal citizens under the law, they bear full responsibilities for working and caring and much more."

"It is bad enough when a prime minister's prejudice, ignorance and thoughtlessness deny cabinet places to women. But the real insult only comes fully obvious when you look at the quality of the men who are in the cabinet."

Sources close to Mr Wakeham said that the energy secretary "had no intention of going anywhere" and there were no plans for any changes to his department.

The prime minister wanted Mrs Chalker, the most senior woman member of the old administration, to leave the government and accept a "high-profile" job within the Conservative party. He had two meetings with Mrs Chalker on Wednesday evening and Thursday morning.

However, yesterday Mrs Chalker, aged 48, made clear that she had rejected the move and would be staying in the post she has held for the past 15 months.

It also appeared that Mrs Chalker would have had to make a big financial sacrifice to accept the move. As a minister of state, she earns £44,591 a year, but a Central Office spokesman said the deputy chairmanship was an unpaid post.

Government sources indicated yesterday Friday that Mr Major regarded his offer of full-time deputy chairmanship of the party in the run-up to election as a good move for Mrs Chalker. "The reason he was doing it was he wanted her profile to go up."

He had no complaints about the way she was doing her ministerial job, but he believed that given the amount of travel involved it would not be practical to hold both posts. John Cope gave up his post at the Northern Ireland Office on Thursday to become the new full-time deputy chairman in succession to David Trippier, who combined his responsibilities as minister for the countryside with party duties for a year.

Labour has been quick to pounce on what it regards as the new prime minister's first gaffe. Tory women MPs have clashed over the issue and there is some anxiety on the Conservative benches that what was widely seen as a skillful reshuffle designed to restore party unity has been marred by uncertain presentation.

In the Commons on Thursday, Mr Major said that women would only reach the top on merit. Three hours later, with the prime minister clearly dismayed by the ensuing uproar, Gillian Shephard, the newly promoted Treasury minister, was sent out into Downing Street to relay much the same message to the television cameras. Later in the evening, Mr Major took the even more unusual step of issuing a statement saying that men had better watch out because there could be women in the cabinet in the next few years.

Mrs Chalker, who styled herself as deputy foreign secretary on her arrival at the Foreign Office at middle-ranking minister of state level in 1986, has been in the government for the past 11 years. She has a majority of only 279 in her Wallasey seat on Merseyside. A campaigning role with particular responsibility for northern marginal seats would have given her more time to defend her foothold in the Commons.

Clifford Longley, page 16



Prison pledge: the Home Secretary, Kenneth Baker, spending his first working day in his new post with the prison governor, John Aldridge. In a visit to Gloucester prison, Mr Baker pledged more cash for the fight against crime "because we believe it is money well spent"

Mundane red boxes beckon to new cabinet

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

AS THE heady excitement that has gripped the Conservative party for the past 17 days evaporates, John Major's revamped cabinet will settle down at the weekend to the more mundane task of dealing with ministerial red boxes.

For those appointed to new cabinet jobs, it will mean a period of civil service briefings along with a detailed study of documents on forthcoming legislation and the decisions that they will face.

Mr Major returned to his home at Great Stukeley, Cambridgeshire, last night for the first time since entering No 10, to be greeted by the communications and security para-

phernalia that surrounds a prime minister. Today he will attend an engagement in his constituency, but the rest of the weekend will be spent on an agenda where the situation in the Gulf and developments in Europe will be top priority.

Malcolm Rifkind, the new transport secretary, will also have a high public profile over the weekend. Today he will be under the English Channel for the breakthrough of the service tunnel. Mr Rifkind will be joined by his French counterpart, and they will walk along the tunnel.

He will then return to his Edinburgh constituency to study briefing documents on his department's heavy legislative programme. Cecil Parkinson, his predecessor, has bequeathed four measures that must be piloted

through Parliament: a new road traffic bill; a move to allow toll roads; privatisation of the trust ports; and a proposed second bridge across the Severn.

Improvements to the public transport system and the reduction of congestion in London and other big cities are also high on Mr Rifkind's agenda, along with the continuing dispute over a high-speed rail link between London and the Channel tunnel, on which a decision is needed by next summer.

Meanwhile, Michael Heseltine spent Thursday afternoon with officials discussing options for reforming the poll tax, a task likened by Chris Patten, his predecessor, to "defusing a bomb". With substantial reforms almost impossible before the

next general election, Mr Heseltine will be looking at practical short-term measures to alleviate some of the difficulties caused by the tax, both to the public and the Tories' electoral fortunes.

In his Surrey constituency, Kenneth Baker's reading will include the criminal justice bill, which has just had its second reading, and the likely financial implications of Lord Justice Woolf's enquiry into the prison riots and conditions in many jails.

But spare a thought for the Conservative member for Finchley. For the first weekend in 11½ years, there will be no red boxes to be worked on until the small hours of the morning. Even Kipling, Mrs Thatcher's favourite author, is unlikely to provide much consolation.

Doughty fighter for the yet-to-be-born

By ROBERT MORGAN, PARLIAMENTARY STAFF

ANN Widdecombe, who at 43 joins the government for the first time, has developed a reputation as a doughty fighter during her three and half years at Westminster.

She moved into the national spotlight during the last session of parliament, when she was in the vanguard of the fight against easier abortion and more liberal laws on embryology research.

During the past fortnight, in the turbulence of the leadership elections, she has made clear her anger at the moves to dislodge Mrs Thatcher from No 10. When the former prime minister stepped down, Miss Widdecombe backed Douglas Hurd.

After convent school in Bath, she studied at Birmingham university and Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, before joining the marketing department of Unilever.

The daughter of a former director general at the defence ministry, she showed her own interest in defence by becoming a founding member and vice-chairman of the Women for Families and Defence, a

counter-organisation to CND. She lists defence as one of her political interests.

After a short period in local government, she sought a wider stage by fighting Burnley in the general election of 1979 and Dr David Owen at Plymouth, Devonport in 1983.

When the Maidstone seat became vacant with the retirement of the sitting Conservative, she comfortably beat off a challenge from the SDP-Liberal Alliance candidate.



Widdecombe: defence is a political interest

Image-makers offer hints for the hostess at No 10

By NICHOLAS WATT

NORMA Major will not be short of advice on how to handle the strain of becoming a leading public figure overnight. Although she has said that she wants family life to carry on as normal, she will inevitably have to carry out public duties on official occasions that could terrify anyone.

According to Susan Crossland, the widow of Anthony Crossland, the late foreign secretary, her self-esteem and sense of the right priorities will ensure that Mrs Major adapts to the stresses. In her early public appear-

ances Mrs Major has seemed nervous and uncertain. She told interviewers that she felt "physically sick with terror" when her husband became foreign secretary and that she could not bear to watch herself on television this week. She has also insisted on maintaining her family life with their two teenage children at their Huntingdon home rather than move to No 10.

Mrs Crossland admires Mrs Major for standing firm. "She does not intend her family life to be locked in the embrace of those civil servants perched in offices all over No 10. And she certainly isn't interested in the ad-men and fashion writers telling her how she could look 38 if only she took their advice," Mrs Crossland said.

Dr Robert Cohen, a consultant psychiatrist at London's Charter Nightingale Hospital, said Mrs Major's insistence on wearing unspectacular clothes and keeping the family together showed she was "tenaciously holding on to" her familiar ways.

He added she would undoubtedly be stung by the comments about her unimaginative dress sense because "you need the skin of a rhino" to laugh them off.

But as an intelligent person she would be able to cope with the changes imposed on her life if she tackled them gradually. She would, however, experience enormous anxiety as she tried to adapt.

Another London doctor who has advised companies on how to look after directors' wives at parties, said that Mrs Major would at first feel very insecure at the

she would have to attend. At each event the host should provide a "nice smart young man" to talk to her about her interests in opera and the family. That would immediately integrate her into the gathering and let her go home feeling confident.

He said that Edward Heath was a shy person at social gatherings and when he was prime minister there was always someone who had been briefed on topics that were familiar to him.

The doctor said the prime minister would face the conflicting loyalties of the state and his family, and Mrs Major's emotional needs would be neglected, however unwittingly. That would mean she would need the maximum emotional support.

Judith Halpin, director of Cambridge image consultants First Impressions, who has written offering her services, said that Mrs Major, an attractive woman, would increase her confidence by sharpening up rather than changing her appearance.

Mrs Halpin said she would cut Mrs Major's hair, which was long and floppy, and style it in a more sophisticated way. She pointed out that Princess Diana was initially very shy and not particularly well dressed but now looked superb. She would advise Mrs Major to wear strong colours but her natural fair colouring would mean a choice of light rather than dark navy clothing. The balance would be to create powerful looks in keeping with her personality. "It would be a matter of building on her own strengths," Mrs Halpin said.

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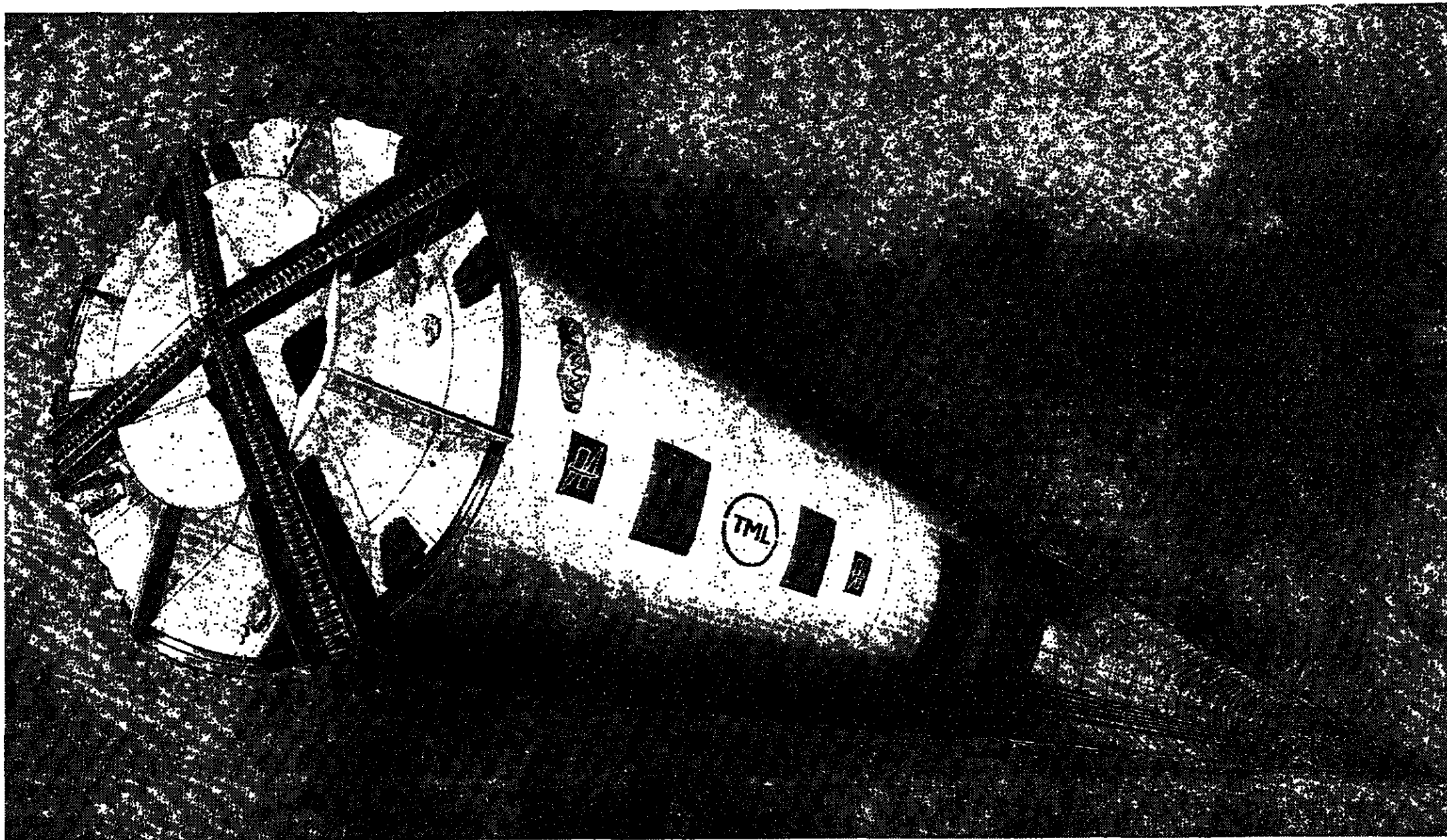
THE SUNDAY TIMES

Ingham: hit man at No 10

"The lobby had witnessed some skulduggery over the years, but never anything quite like this. Never before had the government's official spokesman - a civil servant - deliberately disparaged a minister to the entire lobby, and done so only moments after the prime minister had given MPs an entirely different version of events."

Robert Harris, from his

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Crime squad made up confessions and evidence, QC says

By CRAIG SETON

AN UNPRECEDENTED report on investigations into the former West Midlands serious crime squad showed a "strikingly similar pattern" of fabricated evidence, the Court of Appeal was told yesterday.

It heard there were 53 separate allegations, including perjury and conspiracy, against seven officers in the case of a man who claimed he was framed by detectives. The judges heard claims that the special report prepared by the Police Complaints Authority on the behaviour of that squad officers helped show false confessions. There were allegations of fabricated interview notes in more than 30 cases as part of a "co-ordinated pattern" of misconduct.

The authority is supervising an investigation by West Yorkshire police into the now disbanded squad after the allegations of fabricated evidence in criminal cases. It was

the first time the authority had given a court such a statistical summary of an investigation. It had been requested three weeks ago by Lord Lane, the Lord Chief Justice, and two colleagues, in the adjourned case of John Edwards, aged 26, from Manchester, who is serving a 14-year sentence for armed robbery. He is appealing against conviction and claims that his confessions were fabricated by squad officers.

Anthony Hacking, QC, for Edwards, argued yesterday that in hearing the appeal the court should take into account the report on the conduct in other cases of the seven officers in Edwards' case and the behaviour of other squad officers.

He alleged it was clear the behaviour of detectives established a strikingly similar pattern between 1986-9 involving evidence that had been fabricated and tampered with. Information showed

that of 85 individual complaints by convicted men against the squad that was under investigation both by West Yorkshire and West Midlands police, there were 15 allegations that false confessions had been manufactured in police cars during journeys with suspects.

Mr Hacking said 37 people out of 80 people alleged they were refused access to a solicitor after their arrest and 20 claimed they did not sign interview notes because they were fabricated. There were seven cases where interview notes had disappeared.

The court was told that one of the seven officers in the Edwards case was awaiting trial on charges of perjury. Mr Hacking said there were also 13 parallels between Edwards' case and that of Hassan Khan, from north Wales, whose conviction for armed robbery was quashed by the Court of Appeal in February because of doubts over crime squad evidence.

During yesterday's hearing, the court was told that *The Times* and the *Birmingham Post* in yesterday's editions had carried reports that 17 former officers of the serious crime squad who had been on non-operation duties during the West Yorkshire enquiry had been returned to full duty by West Midlands police. Mr Justice Alton said he had read they had been exonerated. The court was told that among those returning to full duty were three of the seven in the Edwards case.

Mr Hacking said the newspaper reports were not based on information from the chief constable of the West Midlands. "The timing is very interesting," he said.

He said that in the past the Police Complaints Authority had declined to disclose the kind of information it had made available to the court because of restrictions in the Police and Criminal Evidence Act. It was the first case where it had happened.

James Wadsworth, QC, for the Crown, urged the Court of Appeal to consider a full report by West Yorkshire police on the Edwards case that was delivered to the Director of Public Prosecutions on Wednesday. It ran to 120 pages and had 1,400 submissions and supporting documents. He said Edwards' conviction was safe and satisfactory.

The information supplied to the court had no real deal and dealt with no more than allegations. "There is a real possibility of a bandwagon effect by defendants once it was known there were allegations against the serious crime squad."

Lord Lane adjourned judgment in the case.

Call for improved science teaching

By JILL SHERMAN, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

Lord Porter of Luddenham, the outgoing president of the Royal Society, yesterday called for education reforms to ensure that everyone was taught science from the age of five to 18.

In his final address to the society, Lord Porter said one of his main challenges over the next few years would be to finish the job that had been started in bringing science education to all British citizens.

"The worst aspect of our educational system is the early specialisation at A-level," he said. Although committees and commissions had debated the best way of including both sciences and languages at this level, nothing had happened.

"It is difficult for ministers, some with little or no secondary education in science, to appreciate the anger and frustration which scientists have long felt at a system which is controlled and guided by those who have little understanding of what makes scientists tick or appreciation of what science has done and will do for mankind."

The politicians were not to blame any more than the newspaper sub-editors who could not supply a correctly worded headline for a scientific paragraph. "They are all victims of a system that will not be changed until we have enough teachers of science, properly trained in their subjects, teaching all children in school from the age of five to

18, so that never again are we all half-educated with most of our leaders chosen from the other half."

A-level pupils should study five subjects, including one science and one language, he said. University teachers would argue that entry standards in their subject would fall if students wasted their time on other subjects, Lord Porter said.

He suggested, however, that flexible degree courses of between two and four years could meet that need. Many school-leavers who would not go to university now or seek an academic career might prefer a two-year pass degree. Lord Porter blamed poor teaching, poor funding and poor rewards for those who went into scientific careers for a steady fall in the number of students opting for science A-levels.



Porter: A-level pupils should study five subjects

Barrage threat to work restoring river salmon

By JOHN YOUNG

THE proposed Cardiff Bay barrage could seriously threaten 20 years of work to restore salmon to the Taff, a conference in London, organised by the Atlantic Salmon Trust and the Institute of Fisheries Management, was told yesterday.

Dr Guy Mawle, of the National Rivers Authority, said that a barrier across the entrance to the bay would prevent any fish entering the river from the sea.

Even if fish passes were built and water quality in the enclosed lagoon strictly monitored, he anticipated that numbers would fall by at least one-third, and possibly much

more. Dr Mawle said that before the industrial revolution the Taff had enjoyed prolific salmon runs.

By the middle of the last century, however, almost all fish life had been destroyed by over-extraction and as a result of pollution from more than 150 coal mining operations in the valleys.

During the 1970s and 1980s, when most of the mines closed, there had been a big improvement in water quality and, for much of its length, it now met EC criteria. By restocking, the authority hoped to see up to 500 rod catches a year by the end of the century.

Inquest opens on surgeons

Blood seeping under an office door led doctors fighting to save the life of a plastic surgeon to a second body, a coroner heard yesterday.

The discovery was outlined at an inquest opened in Wakefield, West Yorkshire, into the deaths of two consultant plastic surgeons at the town's Pinderfields Hospital.

Mr Kenneth Paton, aged 56, was stabbed in the chest more than 20 times and Mr Michael Masser, aged 42, sustained six stab wounds to the neck and chest, coroner Mr Philip Gill was told. Detective Superintendent George McKean told the inquest that a man had appeared before Wakefield Magistrates Court accused of murdering the two plastic surgeons, and had been remanded in custody.

The inquest was adjourned.

Dog poison fear

Thames Valley police are investigating the death of an Alsatian dog, valued at £7,000, which may have been poisoned by rival breeders. The dog's owner, Jim Haydon of Enslow, near Bletchington, Oxon, was on holiday when the dog received a fatal dose of poison on November 24. He estimated that Dick had been earning £4,000 a year, servicing bitches at a stud fee of several hundred pounds each.

Airline fined

KLM Royal Dutch Airlines has been fined £20,000 and ordered to pay costs after being convicted of 30 offences in connection with the deaths of nearly 1,300 tropical birds in December last year. The birds were being transported from Tanzania to Miami via Amsterdam and London.



Evidence claim: Joseph Kennedy, right, at Long Lartin prison. With him is Paul Hill, one of the Guildford Four

Birmingham Six 'can be cleared'

NEW evidence has come forward which proves the innocence of the six men serving life sentences for the IRA Birmingham pub bombings in which 21 people died, it was claimed yesterday. Joseph Kennedy, the US congressman, made the allegation after he had visited the Birmingham Six in their prisons at Long Lartin, Worcestershire, and Garry, Leicestershire.

As he left Long Lartin where three of the men - Hugh Callaghan, Johnny Walker and Gerry Hunter - are being held, he called on John Major to review the men's case and the whole British policy towards Northern Ireland. Mr Kennedy, who has campaigned for the

men's release and other civil rights issues, declined to say what the new evidence was, but said he would be making a further statement about it later when more details became available. "I have not met with the IRA, I will not meet with the IRA and I abhor political violence and would never use my family's name for influence to promote the use of violence," he added.

"The decision to keep them in prison is much more based on politics than facts, and I think there is a unique opportunity for Mr Major to be able to make any clear review both of this case and of the policies regarding the north of Ireland. Being here at a time when

your country is seeing so much change, we hope that this is a moment in a history when the various policies can be reviewed," he added.

When asked about his reaction to claims that he was interfering with British justice and trying to attract the American Irish vote, he replied: "I already get 99.9 per cent of the Irish vote in my area. Anyone who thinks I will get more as a result of this visit, does not understand American politics."

Mr Kennedy was accompanied by Courtney, his sister, Paul Hill, one of the Guildford Four and Bart Gordon, a Tennessee congressman.

Devolution hopes rise after talks on Ulster

By EDWARD GORMAN
IRISH AFFAIRS
CORRESPONDENT

AFTER months of stalemate, there were encouraging signs yesterday that the government's initiative on devolution for Northern Ireland could produce inter-party talks in the new year.

Following a day-long discussion with Gerry Collins, the Irish foreign minister, Peter Brooke, the Northern Ireland secretary, was quickly confident that a breakthrough could be on the cards. It is thought that the two governments have arrived at broad agreement on the mechanics of how and when negotiations between Northern Ireland's political leaders and Dublin should begin in Mr Brooke's three-tiered talks process. That has been the sticking point since July 5.

The latest approach is thought to involve Mr Brooke acting, with prior agreement from all parties, as arbiter over when "North-South contacts" should start. That is thought to be acceptable to the nationalist SDLP and to Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionist party. James Moynihan, the Ulster Unionist party leader, has, however, called it unrealistic.

Mr Brooke is expected to meet Mr Moynihan and Mr Paisley and, separately, leaders of the SDLP within the next week, to seek their acceptance of the new approach.

After the talks last night, Mr Brooke said: "If we were to find an arrangement which was acceptable to the SDLP and the unionists as a result of this round of conversations on which I shall embark, I would have thought that we would be likely to have the basis of a deal."

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French threaten renewed protests on meat imports

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

FRENCH farmers are threatening a new campaign against cheap meat and livestock imports, which they say are pushing down prices and making many of them bankrupt.

The threat comes as crucial negotiations on liberalising world trade, in which the European Community's reluctance to open up its protected agricultural market has been a stumbling-block, are due to enter their final stages in Brussels. The French are primarily concerned about imports of cattle and beef from eastern Europe, but British exports to France might also be affected.

During the summer, French farmers made more than 20 attacks on livestock consignments, including a dozen

loads of live sheep from Britain. More than 300 British sheep were poisoned and burnt alive in two incidents.

French farming organisations said yesterday that they planned to carry out controls — in the past a euphemism for stopping trucks — at all border points and selected meat processing plants and wholesale centres from Monday.

Thierry Rapin of the National Federation of Farming Unions said: "This is not aimed at British imports. British farmers should be showing solidarity with us because we are taking a stand against the dumping of cheap meat from eastern Europe, which is depressing the whole EC market."

A group of 50 British farm-

ers, with 20,000 from western Europe and others from Japan and the United States, will hold a protest in Brussels on Monday against proposals to cut farming subsidies as part of a package of measures to free world trade.

Farmers from the 12 EC member states and 11 other countries plan to demonstrate outside the exhibition centre in Brussels where trade and agriculture ministers from 107 countries will be meeting to try to conclude the Uruguay round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

The Community has offered an overall cut of 30 per cent in farm subsidies between 1986 and 1996, but the United States and the Cairns group of 14 food-exporting countries are pressing for a 75 per cent cut in internal subsidies and border protection and a 90 per cent reduction in export subsidies.

Renewed disruption of meat imports by the French could complicate the already difficult negotiations and undermine EC solidarity.

French farmers have been complaining for months about cheap beef flooding in from what was East Germany. Dairy farmers in that region have had to cut the size of their herds to comply with EC milk production quotas to which they are now subject as citizens of a united Germany.

The French Beef Federation estimates that beef prices are between 15 and 30 per cent below what they were a year ago, mainly due to cheap imports. They say farmers are being forced to take action.



Chat show: Tommy, an Australian sulphur-crested cockatoo having a quiet word with Jackie Goulder, his owner, at the cage and aviary birds show at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham yesterday. A talking bird contest was won by Harry, an Amazon parrot, owned by Janet Mallinder of Barnsley, South Yorkshire

Police forces to face national efficiency test

Is the annual £4.5 billion cost of policing England and Wales money well spent? Stewart Tendler reports on Whitehall's search for a formula to assess police needs and demands

PROVINCIAL police forces in England and Wales last year deployed 52,600 uniformed officers. They dedicated 1,900 officers to community relations projects and fielded 14,600 operational detectives. More than 7,600 officers kept traffic flowing. Overall there were two operational officers for every 1,000 of the population.

Is that too much or too little? Were the officers properly deployed? Why did City of London officers earn the highest average wage in the country at £17,319 while their Thames Valley colleagues were at the bottom with £13,943? Should chief constable A have extra men? Should chief constable B get none? How do you tell if the police are worth an annual £4.5 billion?

In the cost-conscious 1990s, Whitehall, police headquarters and town halls are inching towards answers to at least some of the key questions. Next week the Audit Commission, in its latest critique of police efficiency, publishes a call for better measures of efficiency.

Whitehall is trying to answer two basic questions. The first is whether a force is efficient and effective. The key lies in a growing computerised statistical base developed since 1985 by the inspectors of constabulary and known as the matrix of police indicators. The 42 forces are divided into "families" made up of forces that have similarities such as force size and the area type.

The aim is to allow comparison in ten main areas of activity, updated annually or quarterly, which are set against the national average picture.

The matrix includes the statistics of the force, its deployment, crime detection, complaints against officers, community relations work, drugs traffic and public order preparedness. Each force must answer 400 questions.

They can throw up a range of fresh questions. In 1988 Nottinghamshire carried out 6.1 breath tests per officer which far exceeded similar forces where the figure ranged from 1 to 1.2 per officer.

At the same time the figures show that the force had the second highest number of positive tests. Was the campaign intended to catch drinkers or stop them? Two years ago Bedfordshire had almost twice as many crimes per 1,000 hectares as six other forces round the country. Was it because crime prevention programmes

were failing or was the county's population expanding, compared with Gwent and Cumbria?

The six inspectors covering the country have access to the matrix which is seen as a powerful diagnostic tool. One Whitehall official said: "When you go with this and plunk it on a desk people really sit up and produce answers." A Home Office report last year said the matrix did not give "a single golden answer" in comparing police performance but it began to "unravel the complex web of a force's activities".

Those activities hinge on precious manpower and form the core of Whitehall's second question. How many officers does a force need? Police establishments have become an acrimonious issue as chief constables battle for a slice of what they see as a small cake baked each year by the Home Office to a stingy Treasury recipe.

Two years ago Whitehall officials devised a national formula against which claims can be tested. The formula balances the police establishment against the size of the rural and urban population it covers, reported crime, road traffic accidents, speed demands and deprivation factors embracing the number of single-parent families, overcrowding and unemployment.

On average, population factors account for 54 per cent of manpower, deprivation takes in 31 per cent, reported crime 11 per cent and traffic accidents amount to about 3 per cent of staff. Figures circulated to chief constables last month as they considered their bids for next year showed some surprises. The forces which are considered 5 per cent below strength based on the formula are not the great urban forces. Bedfordshire has the greatest need followed by Northamptonshire, Hampshire, Norfolk and Thames Valley. Forces considered to be 5 per cent or more above their needs are led by Cumbria, Merseyside, Surrey and Avon and Somerset.

Home Office and Treasury research last year disclosed different forces collected different information and none of it was standardised. The report on the matrix noted: "Until the resource consumption of different police activities can be identified fairly satisfactorily any assessment of efficiency is inevitably incomplete." Next year experiments will begin in trying to gather wider information.

Women are complacent about Aids, survey says

By JILL SHERMAN, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

WOMEN are alarmingly complacent about the risks of being infected with the Aids virus, according to a survey published yesterday.

In spite of official warnings that Aids is now spreading faster among women and children than other groups, the Gallup poll showed that women were more reluctant than men to adopt safer sex practices.

Speaking at the launch of the survey, carried out for the National Aids Trust, Professor Michael Adler said that a woman in a regular relationship with an infected man had a one-in-four chance of becoming infected. A man in a regular relationship with an infected woman had only a one in ten chance.

More than half the women questioned were "not very worried" or "not at all worried" that they or someone they knew would contract Aids. Although young women were more concerned about the risks than older women, they did not seem to be changing their sexual practices as fast as men. More than one in five men aged 16 to 24 said they had changed their behaviour, compared with only one in nine young women.

Caroline Guinness, of the Positively Women counselling organisation for HIV-infected women, said that last year the organisation saw one or two HIV-positive women a week, most infected after injecting drugs. By January the number had increased to five or six, at least 85 per cent of whom were infected heterosexually.

Saturday Review, pages 4-5

Brecon Beacons mast plan provokes outcry

PROTESTERS in Wales are appalled by plans to build four radio masts on the edge of the Brecon Beacons National Park (Robin Young writes). Richard Livsey, the Liberal Democrat MP for Brecon and Radnor, said that the Royal Navy planned to raise four 1,500ft masts on Mynydd Epynt at the western end of the Sennybridge military training range.

"The masts, set on a hillside at a height of some 800ft, would be as high as the Brecon Beacons themselves," Mr Livsey said yesterday. "I con-

sider that totally unacceptable." Mynydd Epynt was taken over by the defence ministry in 1940 and has been used for military training ever since. The planned radio installation is intended to maintain communication with Trident submarines.

Mr Livsey claimed yesterday that the Royal Navy had plenty of sites of its own where masts could be set up.

A defence ministry spokesman said: "It is not our practice to discuss the purpose or nature of defence installations on ministry land."

Lawyers court danger to help raise money for the homeless

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

LAWYERS in England and Wales will be casting aside their dignity tomorrow for a week of unlikely activities from sleeping out rough to cycling a tandem for more than 100 miles to raise £1 million for the homeless. It will begin with a group of lawyers abseiling down the facade of the Law Society headquarters in Chancery Lane, central London.

At least 100 firms are involved as well as barristers' chambers and clerks. Lord Justice Taylor, one of the country's most senior judges, has already played his part by giving a piano recital last night in a concert organised by Newcastle Law Society and Bar.

Many firms are holding "sleep outs" in association with the national "sleep out" organised by the National Campaign for the Homeless. Neil Confrey, of Loosemore,

Cardiff, said: "About 50 of us will be sleeping out in the shopping centre in the middle of Cardiff. I work for people who are homeless, or being evicted or harassed, so the idea really flowed from there."

One barristers' clerk in a Birmingham set of chambers will make a parachute jump, and the Law Society at Redditch, Hereford and Worcester, is sponsoring a tandem bicycle ride from its offices to Chancery Lane. The Barristers' Clerks' Association is competing against the Bar in a match of paint ball.

In London, Linklaters and Paines are hosting a range of events including a blues band evening and a sponsored swim. D.J. Freeman will hold a sponsored blues session, Frere Cholmeley a sponsored run around Lincoln's Inn Fields at lunchtime, Manches and Co are organising a "treasure hunt via various pubs in

Fleet Street", and Nabarro Nathanson will be singing carols at Victoria Station.

Jon Siddall, campaign coordinator, said: "We have been pleasantly surprised at the way many firms have got stuck in and those who are doing fund raising are having a whale of a time."

The climax of the LawAid 90 week, which was set up by Lindsay Greig, editor of *The Lawyer* magazine, with support from the Law Society and the Bar, will be a two-day weekend adventure challenge, "a blend of physical, mental and group initiative tasks".

Teams from across the legal fraternity, including the country's largest law firm, Clifford Chance, a team from Norwich Union Legal Services and the chambers of Colin Ross-Munro, QC, have signed up. LawAid 90 is the first initiative of its kind involving the legal profession.



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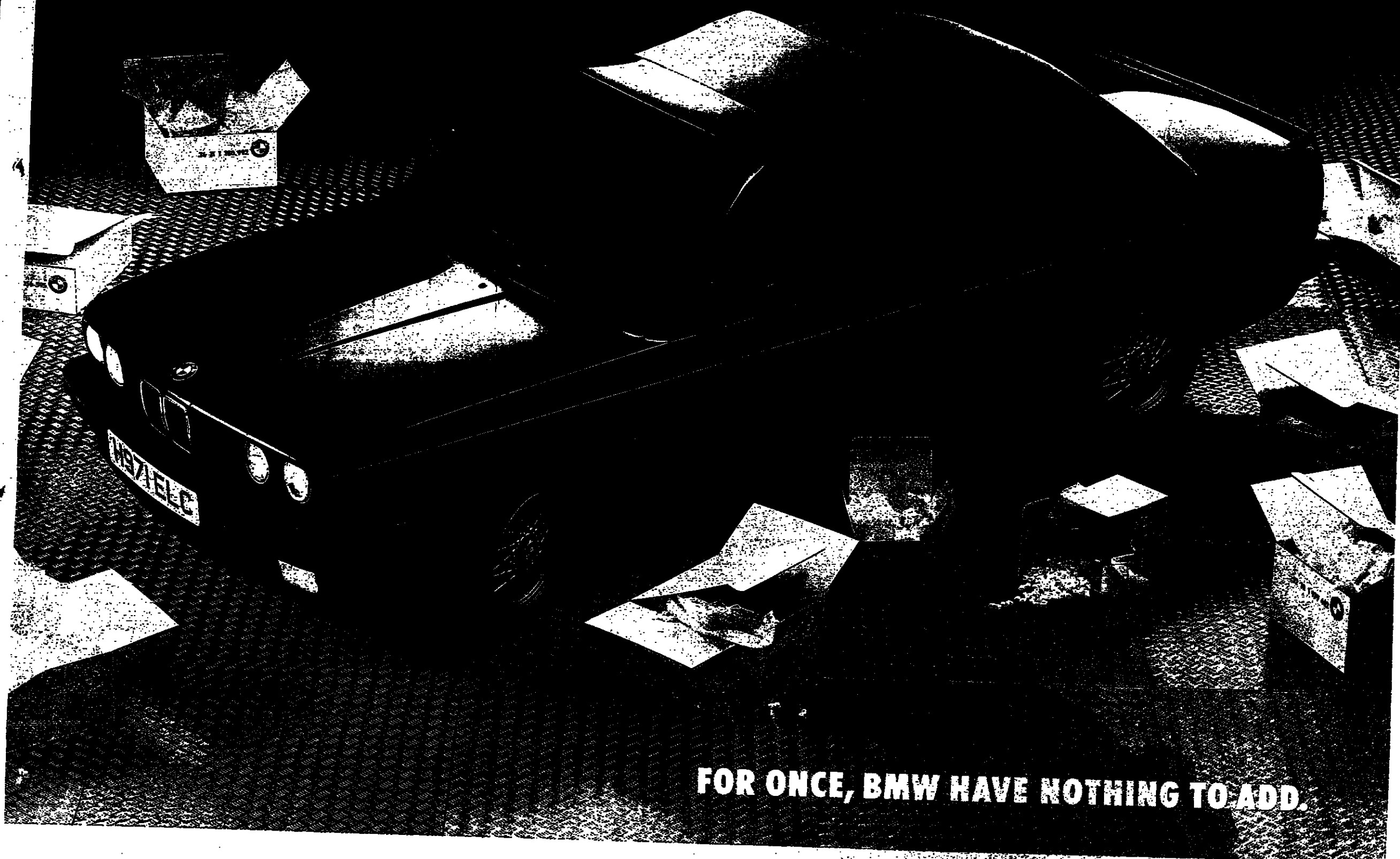
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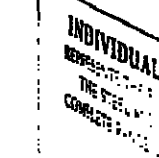


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Summer travel:
A good way to
live in June is
choose an outdoor
activity in the sun
at a fair or festival.
Although weather
beats a storm or

Case adjourned



هكذا من الأصل

Verger jailed for stealing £47,000 in collections

A CATHEDRAL vergier who stole more than £47,000 from church funds to pay for a life of luxury was yesterday jailed for two-and-a-half years.

Clive Lloyd, aged 44, head vergier of Exeter cathedral, took a total of £47,868 from public donations and service collection boxes. Exeter crown court was told. Lloyd, also a magistrate for two years up to his arrest, paid for a £3,267 cruise on the QE2 and put down a £9,000 deposit for another voyage, bought cars, a timeshare apartment and stereo equipment from the

money he stole. Francis Gilbert, for the prosecution, said. He kept a board of £11,450 in the cathedral safe. Lloyd, who lived rent-free in cathedral accommodation, admitted eight offences of theft between 1983 and August 1990.

Mr Justice McCullough told him he had committed "a grave breach of trust" and ordered him to pay £3,200 compensation. "The amount and the uses to which you put the money takes one's breath away. I have never seen anything like this before." The judge said Lloyd was in a position in which his honesty was "taken for granted by the public".

Lloyd was appointed in 1980 and was in charge of the security of cathedral money. Mr Gilbert said it was "impossible to say" precisely how much Lloyd had stolen because he was unable to put a figure on what he had taken before 1987.

Lloyd was in charge of emptying and counting money from donation boxes and collections during services and banking it at a National Westminster branch in Cathedral Close.

He took notes from donation boxes and cash ready for banking and replaced them

Millfield head expels three pupils

Three senior boys at Millfield School, Somerset, one of the country's most expensive independent schools, have been expelled for running an illegal "tagging" system, using junior pupils to run errands and threatening to hit them or levy fines if they refused.

Three other boys in the £11,000 a year co-educational school have been suspended by Christopher Martin, the former head of Bristol cathedral school, who took charge of Millfield in September.

Baby charge

Robert Rouse, aged 21, and Lyndsay Jane Morris, aged 18, of Thornton Heath, south London, accused of murdering their daughter aged six weeks, were remanded in custody until December 7 by Croydon magistrates.

Petrol increase

Petrol at BP garages will rise by 2.3p a gallon from Monday. Four-star petrol will cost an average 203.7p a gallon (44.8p a litre) and standard unleaded 195p a gallon (42.9p a litre).

Axe rapist jailed

Alan Davies, aged 41, from Merseyside, was jailed for 14 years by Dorchester crown court for kidnapping and raping a woman after threatening her with an axe.

Runner tribute

A granite memorial to Eric Liddell, the Olympic running champion and missionary immortalised in the film *Chariots of Fire*, was unveiled at Edinburgh university, where he was a student in the 1920s.

Case adjourned

Charges against Arthur Scargill, president of the National Union of Mineworkers, alleging failure to keep proper records, were adjourned until next Friday by Sheffield magistrates.



Falling demand: snow covers Zermatt, but Swiss slopes will have fewer British skiers

School trip ruling prompts slump in skiing bookings

WITH snow lying several feet deep at many of Europe's most popular resorts, hoteliers and ski organisers throughout the Alps are predicting their best winter for many years.

Their optimism is not, however, shared by British tour operators, who forecast a drop of 40 per cent in Britons heading for the pistes in January, with a 25 per cent reduction over the whole season.

The main reason for the collapse of what had been regarded as potentially the biggest growth area in British travel is the dramatic fall in the number of school parties.

When the education department bowed to pressure from local authorities last year and reformed the financial arrangements for schools organising term-time trips, it did not foresee the consequences. Trips were cancelled as headteachers tried to find a way round the rules. Fewer than 100,000 pupils are now expected to go on ski trips this season, compared with 250,000 last year.

For Quest Travel, which dominates the school holiday market, the drop has been disastrous. Terry Williamson, director of Quest,

Harvey Elliott reports that fewer Britons will be taking to the piste this year, in spite of promising snow falls in the Alps

said: "Because this winter's trips were organised in November last year, only eight months after the regulations were introduced, most schools did not understand what they could do."

"Rather than run the risk of falling foul of the act, they either cancelled them completely or tried to reorganise them outside term time at a time when they were free to make a charge. That, however, is the most expensive time of all because it is the most popular and teachers also objected to having their own holidays interrupted."

As a result, tour operators cut back drastically on holidays. By last September many had cancelled up to 40 per cent of the beds and seats they had booked.

The shortage of snow in the Alps during the past three seasons, which has been the other main reason for the decline in the number of

skiers, looks likely to be reversed this year.

David Hearn, of the Ski Club of Great Britain, said: "It is fabulous almost everywhere. You need about 20cm of snow on grass slopes and twice that on rocks and in most of the popular resorts these levels have been exceeded already. There are forecasts of further falls."

"If it snows just once more, the entire region should be guaranteed excellent conditions throughout the season." The recent snow falls have made him cautiously optimistic that bookings will start to pick up for March and April.

Mark Wenborn, director of Thomson Holidays, the biggest ski tour operator, said: "I do not think there will be much of an improvement in January."

The new rules have also affected school visits to popular British attractions. Washington Wildlife Trust, Tyne and Wear, said 8,000 fewer children had visited last year; Elsham Hall Country Park, Humberside, reported a 40 per cent drop; and Twycross Zoo, Leicestershire, said 41 per cent fewer pupils visited last year.

Travel, Review pages 48-58

Read about Bernard Ingham's relationship with Margaret Thatcher in The Sunday Times tomorrow.



Margaret Thatcher's Chief Press Secretary for 11 years, he was called by some "the most powerful man in Britain" and could make or break the reputations of ministers with his off-the-record briefings of journalists. Now you can read exclusive extracts from his unauthorized biography only in The Sunday Times tomorrow.



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THE SUNDAY TIMES

Moscow calls for all-out diplomacy to avert conflict

By CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN DHAHRAN AND ANDREW MCEWEN

MOSCOW is to make another attempt to persuade Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait in the hope that the UN Security Council resolution authorising the use of force will have had a sobering effect on President Saddam Hussein.

During a dinner with the foreign ministers of the other four permanent members of the security council, Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet foreign minister, is understood to have emphasised the need for a final round of intensive diplomacy. America and Britain will wish Moscow well and will be making their own approaches to Baghdad, but the prospects are not good.

Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, yesterday sought to prepare the public for war. "I think we all have enough imagination... to realise that war is not easy, that suffering and destruction goes with it," he said in an interview with BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme. "But we also realise that, if we want a world which is reasonably safe for ourselves, for those who come after us, it has to be a world in which one nation state cannot simply stamp out another nation in the course of a day and keep the fruits of its aggression."

Mr Hurd still hopes that Thursday's UN resolution will not prove the starting signal for a war to begin after January 15. He described it as "the strongest step yet for a peaceful solution", but also emphasised that the military option was "not a bluff".

Abdul Razzak al-Hassani, the Iraqi ambassador in Paris, however, dismissed the resolution as "not acceptable". "All they are doing is giving Iraq two choices, either to surrender unconditionally or go to war, that is the meaning of this resolution," he said on Channel 4 television.

Ron Brown, Labour MP for Edinburgh Leith, said last night that senior figures in the Iraqi government had asked for a meeting with John Major, the prime minister. Mr Brown, who returned from a visit to Baghdad on Monday, said he spoke on the telephone last night to Dr Mohammed al-Adhami, an adviser to President Saddam. "He told

me the Iraqi parliament wants to send a delegation to Britain to meet Mr Major and discuss some sort of peace formula," he said.

Arab states, both those supporting Iraq and those against it, are expected to be at the centre of diplomatic activity over the next six weeks. But Saudi Arabia again made clear yesterday that it will not take part in negotiations with Baghdad until there is a complete Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait.

An official statement issued by the Saudi press agency denied Libyan government claims that King Fahd of Saudi Arabia had agreed to a mini-summit with President Saddam also to be attended by Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, the Libyan leader.

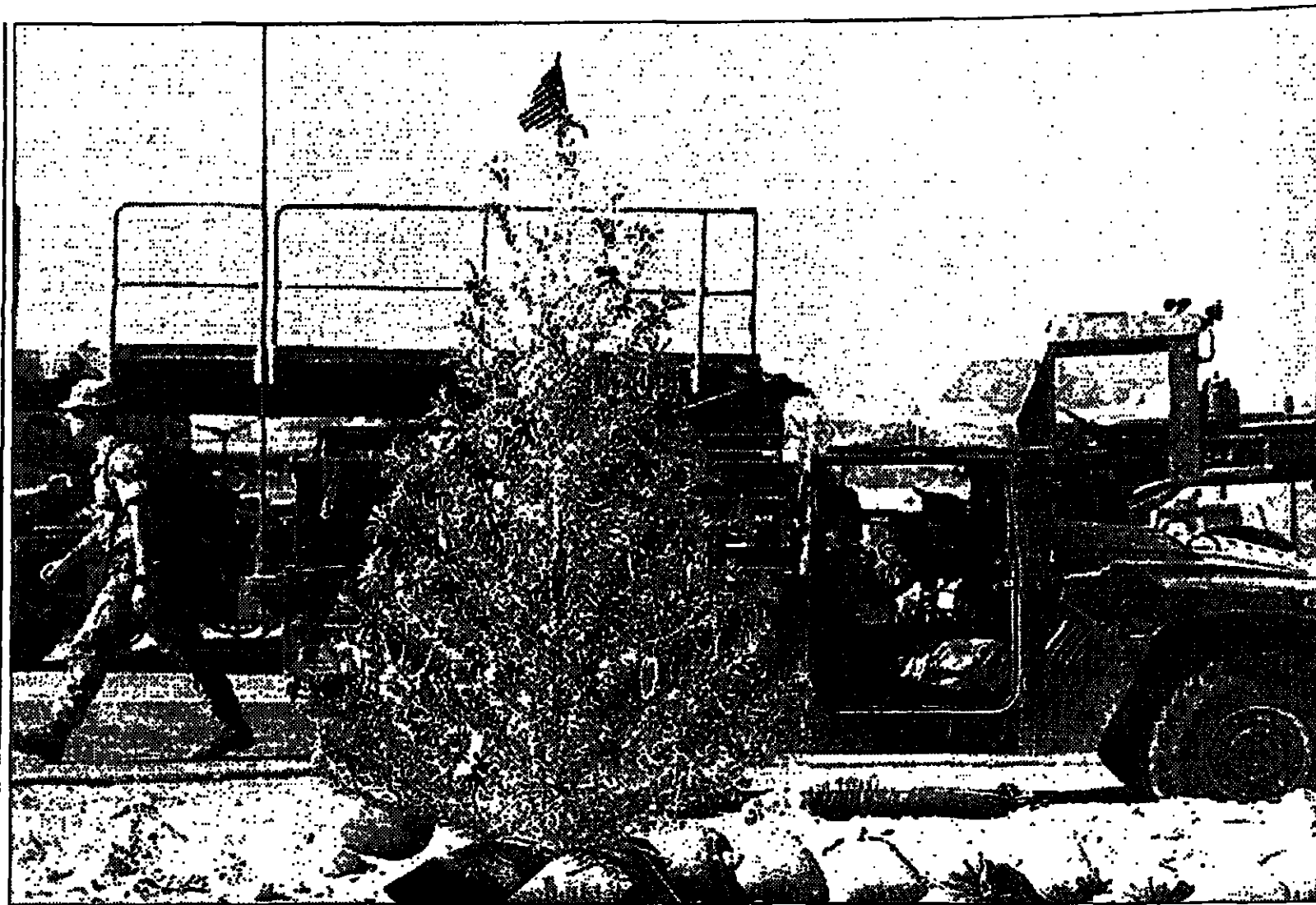
The denial came after the arrival in Saudi Arabia last Monday of a special Libyan envoy, Ahmad Gaddafi al-Dam, who was carrying a proposal for such a meeting. Libya has for some weeks been working behind the scenes to try to achieve an Arab solution to the confrontation in the Gulf.

"The reply of the Saudi monarch was clear and frank: that such a meeting was impossible in view of the kingdom's firm opposition to the Iraqi aggression on the brotherly state of Kuwait," a Saudi spokesman said.

Despite the public rejection of Libya's initiative, efforts by Colonel Gaddafi, King Hassan of Morocco and King Hussein of Jordan to find a solution are expected to intensify.

Sir Brian Urquhart, former under-secretary-general at the United Nations, said: "I am sure there will be a great effort to fill this particular period with some fairly dynamic diplomacy. It seems enormously necessary for people who speak with authority and strength to actually speak with Saddam Hussein. I hope that will be done, perhaps by the United States which, it seems to me, will make a great difference."

Sir Brian said he thought it was a mistake to call the latest UN resolution a war resolution since its idea was to provide the opportunity for a peaceful solution.



Shining symbol: an aluminium Christmas tree adding a holiday flavour to a sandbagged bunker at an air force control centre in Saudi Arabia

Tank patrol takes a smooth night ride

From MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT, WITH THE 7TH ARMoured BRIGADE IN SAUDI ARABIA

SITTING in the cramped gunner's seat of Challenger Two Zero as the 60-ton tank sped across the soft sand in the darkness at about 30mph, it was not difficult to understand why the men of the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards are confident they can outclass the Iraqi T-72s across the Kuwaiti border.

To the gunner's right is a small television screen which displays in detail other Challenger hundreds of yards away. Taps, or thermal observation gunnery sights, turn night into day.

"It will be pretty bumpy," the driver shouted as he settled into his igloo at the front of the tank. But, unlike the Soviet-built Iraqi tanks' hard suspension, Two Zero's hydraulics provided a relatively smooth ride, its tracks swallowing the dunes and bumps like snowploughs carving through drifts.

The most comforting thought for the Challenger crews is that the Iraqis do not have in their inventory one single shell that can pierce the tank's tough Chobham armour-plated hide.

A night spent under the stars in the Saudi desert with the Royal Scots Dragoon

Guards allows a visitor a glimpse into its regimental traditions and a premonition of what is to come.

The young officers often have double-barrelled names, like 2nd Lt Rupert Aler-Hankey, aged 24, a troop commander from A squadron. He comes from Taunton in Somerset. The men under his command have broad Scottish accents and come from Glasgow, Dumfries and Fife.

All believe the fighting will be over by March before the onset of Ramadan, the Muslim fasting month. "They say that if we do anything it will be extremely quick," the young lieutenant said. "I think the Iraqis will put up their hands once it starts. I hope so."

Once it starts - these three words, echoed by so many among the "Desert Rats" stretched out across the desert in temporary positions as the politicians decide when to order them forward, epitomised the state of mind of the

British troops. They expect to go to war; diplomacy has delayed "H hour" but not for much longer.

However, another night has come. Corporal Rab Fairbairn from Fockles stands erect by the sandbagged guard post and plays *Blue Rondo a l'Allegro* on his bagpipes as the last splashes of sunset merge into darkness. Two US Marine Harrier AV8Bs shoot across the sky at high altitude.

Reveille is at 4.45am, but not by the piper as promised. He was having a lie-in like the rest of A squadron, currently enjoying a brief, restful period at "St Andrew's camp". A short helicopter ride away, the armoured infantry units of the Staffordshire regiment are revving up their Warriors, which they like to refer to as the sports cars of the Desert Rats. The Staffordshires, like many regiments here, have been boosted by companies from other regiments to reach "war establishment". There are men from the Grenadier Guards, the Royal Green Jackets, and the Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire.

The role of infantry has not changed. Lt-Col Charles Rogers, commander of the Staffordshire regiment, explained: "To breach the Iraqi defences, first there will be a recon, then artillery brought down, then tanks will move in, followed by infantry. We'll use Warriors to get us there first, but in the end the infantry will use

weapons, so his men will have to advance to the front in full NBC (nuclear, biological and chemical) kit, as well as the new body armour which has recently arrived from Britain.

"We've never had chemicals chucked at us before," he said. "It would be nice if we had some to chuck back but we don't have any. I don't know about the Americans."

The Desert Rats, or 7th Armoured Brigade, have made full use of the terrain to hide their troops and armour. Every quarry in their designated patch of the desert has been utilised to give nothing away to the Iraqis' sideways radar systems.

The 24M109 artillery pieces of 40 Field Regiment Royal Artillery are concealed under

camouflage netting in one of the largest quarries. Each day the men practise loading the shells, some weighing over 100lb, into the breeches. It is an exhausting ritual. When the war starts, a ten-gun battery will be capable of firing 6,000 shells a day. There is no shortage of ammunition. "We've got huge stocks," Lt-Col Rory Clayton, commander of 40 Field Regiment, said. "We'd run out of gun barrels before running out of ammunition."

Another large quarry is inhabited by 21 Engineer Regiment Group, equipped with a vast display of bulldozers, bridge-laying vehicles, two DC6 armoured bulldozers for clearing bombs and mines, and a Viper machine that fires 200 metres of explosive hose, clearing a path through a minefield.

Lt-Col John Moore-Bick, commander of the Royal Engineers regiment, has no doubts that the Iraqi obstacle belt will present a formidable task for his men, in spite of recent remarks from the MoD in London that the "Maginot Line" was not very sophisticated. "Let them come out here and have a go," he said.

Major Mark Auchinleck, second-in-command of the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, is a first cousin "two generations up the ladder" of the legendary Field Marshal "Buck", who was Commander-in-Chief Middle East from 1941 to 1942.

Robbie the robot is ready to wage war for America

FROM SUSAN ELLICOTT IN WASHINGTON

ROBOTS could be fighting for the United States army in a future war. Already some of the latest recruits to army and marine training bases include a mechanical member by the name of Robo-spy, who is more resilient than many of his human colleagues.

Robbie, as he (or she) is known among the troops, is a stocky, all-terrain vehicle equipped with a video camera for eyes and ears and an optical fibre cable. An extendable neck enables him to peer into the upstairs windows of houses during reconnaissance missions and beam back to his operator a picture of what lies inside. A four-step combination of button-pressing allows him to fire a laser-guided missile.

Scott Myers, a robotics expert who runs a Maryland-based firm that produces the robots, says Robbie's greatest strength is "soldier survivability". If the enemy blows Robbie up, his operator - concealed several miles away with a remote-control box the size of a small suitcase - escapes unscathed. Robo-spies are also cheaper, easier to handle and often more reliable than their emotional colleagues. They cannot complain about reconstituted chicken à la king or lose morale if they receive no mail.

"You can drop them off the back of a truck and they'll roll over, get back up and get down to work," says Mr Myers, noting that one robot even survived a day of rougher than usual handling by a marine in Camp Pendleton, California, who hoped to get the day off if his robot expired.

They also have a 10-year lifespan and little maintenance cost, compared with the estimated cost of several million dollars for training and employing a career soldier. The first robot costs around \$350,000 (£175,000), falling to \$125,000 by the dozen and \$50,000-\$75,000 in bulk. The United States army and ma-

rines own four such robots and have ordered 14 of Robbie's offspring, updated models of the original prototype, officially called Surrogate Tele-operated Vehicles (STVs), at a cost of \$5 million.

At present the United States army has no robots in the Gulf and their maker, Robotic Systems Technology Inc, says production in sufficient numbers for deployment in Kuwait would take several months.

Besides, efforts by the Pentagon to develop computerised soldiers has been foiled by a congressional ban on robots carrying weapons on the battlefield.

The Robo-spies are best suited to the kind of door-to-door scouting missions that could take place if American soldiers are sent into Kuwait City to flush out Iraqi troops.

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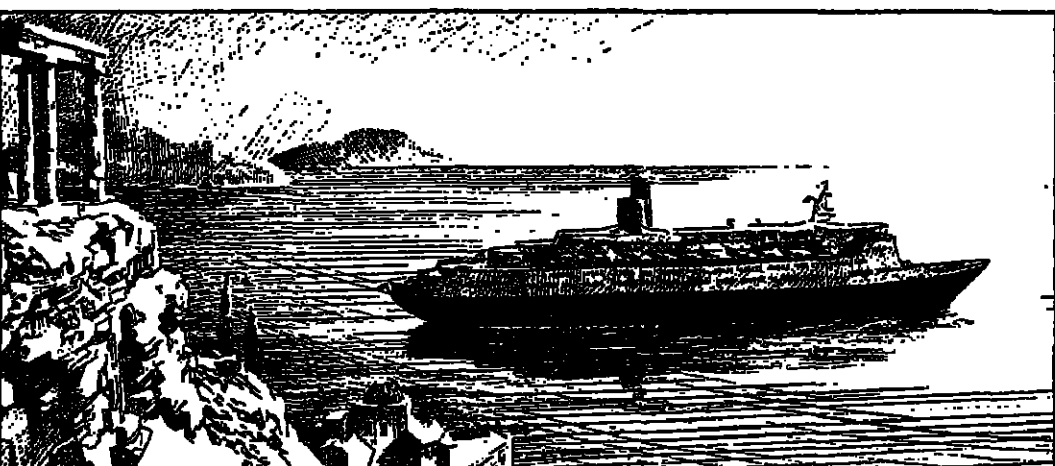
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QUEEN ELIZABETH 2

French spin

French spin

French spin

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French spin

Time for Saddam's friends to give him honest advice

SECURITY Council Resolution No 678 solves a very difficult problem both of principle and practice.

Britain and America have believed from the outset that, in terms of international law, no further security council authority has been necessary to legitimise the liberation of Kuwait by force: the right of individual and collective self-defence enshrined in Article 51 of the UN Charter was enough. But the security council is a political, not a judicial, body and the majority, including the Soviet Union, China and France, have taken a different view.

This has meant that, if the American-led forces in Saudi Arabia had attacked the Iraqis without further recourse to the council, there would have been immediate and clamorous demands for a ceasefire. This could have meant American and British vetoes.

If fighting starts, the regional members of the anti-Saddam coalition are

going to need strong nerves. There is bound to be uproar in many parts of the Arab world, demonstrations, anti-foreign riots, probably acts of terrorism. Governments are going to find this kind of pressure hard enough to withstand without the additional burden of being associated with Western powers using vetoes to defy international demands to end the fighting.

However, the alternative preferred by many council members, namely putting military action under command of the security council by invoking the "military articles" of the charter was a clear non-starter. It is, for example, ludicrous to imagine that "plans for the application of armed force shall be made by the security council..." What? All 15 of them, including Yemen and Cuba? What about military security? Would they all solemnly swear not to leak to the press or to President Saddam Hussein? Would there be a ghost of a chance of general agreement? Would

By persuading the UN Security Council to authorise the use of force in the Gulf, the US has evaded a quagmire and brought off a diplomatic coup, argues Anthony Parsons

there not be several referees and tough judges blowing whistles and waving flags simultaneously?

Similarly, I cannot see the five-member military staff committee (including China) making much of a fist of the strategic direction of any armed forces placed at the disposal of the security council. In a nutshell, successful wars cannot be fought by compromise resolutions.

I was pessimistic about the Americans finding support for a sensible third way. But they have: the council, going beyond Article 51 but avoiding the quagmire of the military articles, has authorised member states (in practice,

the American-led coalition) to take action. This means that, if Iraq has to be ejected from Kuwait by force, the governments concerned will not be bedevilled by shouts of off-side and the blowing of whistles in New York.

This is a triumph for American diplomacy and it is to be hoped that James Baker, the Secretary of State, has not offered up too many hostages to fortune to secure the necessary support. It cannot have been easy. The resolution may also have established a precedent for future crises.

The second significance is, of course, the message it sends to President Saddam. In spite of his defiant rhetoric,

I have never believed that he is Samson in the temple, ready to self-destruct rather than retreat. When his blitzkrieg against Iran failed, he openly sued for peace for seven years on any terms except the delivery of his own head.

In August 1990, after invading Kuwait, he gave the Iraqis all their war aims, including the 1975 Agreement, which he had publicly torn up. He is an absolute tyrant and his people hear only what he wants them to hear. He can present any defeat as victory.

So far the problem has been that he is not convinced that the nations arrayed against him will have the political and military nerve to start a war. His hope is that, if he goes on playing for time, the international coalition and the sanctions cordon will crumble before sanctions bite deep, as they will in about a year's time.

I am certain that he is wrong and that he will not be allowed to keep Kuwait. The question is not whether he will

have to disgorge but how and when. Moreover, the whole world has united in opposition to his annexation of Kuwait, more so than to the invasion: no member state of the UN has hitherto forcibly annexed another member state. It is a precedent not to be set.

President Saddam's own advisers, if they value their lives, are not going to tell him the truth. But his Arab and Russian friends should now tell him that he should not be lulled into a false sense of security by the voices being raised against the military option in the United States.

Either he withdraws peacefully, or he subjects his people to another bloody war which Iraq can only lose, or he allows his country to be ruined by sanctions. To a genuine patriot, as he claims to be, the choice should be easy. He had better make it soon.

Sir Anthony Parsons is a former ambassador to Iran and Permanent Representative to the UN

Bush hopes Baker's Iraq mission will silence the doubters

From PETER STOTHARD, US EDITOR, IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Bush strove to reassert his dominance yesterday over an increasingly doom-laden domestic debate about peace or war in the Gulf. It was a shock announcement that he would send James Baker, his Secretary of State, to Baghdad to "look Saddam in the eyes" and explain directly US determination to force Iraq from Kuwait.

Just as the president appeared to be losing ground to congressional critics of his policy, he revived memories of his successful tactics of surprise offers during the break-up of communist-controlled Europe. "He has pulled another rabbit out of his hat," one White House aide said. "And he is back on the road to winning the argument."

For the past few days administration officials have emphasised that the US already had active diplomatic links with Iraq and that no special emissary was necessary. The president said that he had changed his mind because of the strength of the

UN vote in favour of the use of force and because he had been told that President Saddam Hussein was isolated from bad news by his advisers.

But there was also a deeply perceived need for a dramatic move from the president, who used the opportunity of announcing the Baker mission to make his most impassioned appeal yet to the American people that, if war had to come, it would come because it was in the clear US interest.

The White House has been losing this argument in recent days while the Senate armed services committee has heard critical evidence about the confusion of US objectives. Mr Bush has been particularly stung by the repeated criticism of Senator Sam Nunn of Georgia that his actions in the Gulf might be justified but were not wise.

Facing a challenge to his judgement and leadership, Mr Bush emphasised that it was the responsibility of the president when American lives had to be put at risk. He promised

the mothers and wives who had written to him that their men would not be sent to battle without maximum support and the greatest possible chance of returning alive.

He challenged the Democrat-controlled Congress to convene and endorse the UN vote. Voicing the private remarks of aides who said that Congress should "put up or shut up", the president told his critics: "Come on, we're ready." The White House hopes that representatives will not want to risk the accusation that they have weakened the hand of the president while American forces are at risk.

He began his hour-long press conference in his usual quiet manner, saying that President Saddam must "leave Kuwait immediately" with a loud sigh and a sideways movement of his head, as though scolding a child. By the time he finished, he was clenching both fists in front of his face and assuring his listeners that there would be no new Vietnam — that if President Saddam did not hear Mr Baker's message, he would feel the unfettered force of US military power.

The president has come under increasing criticism for the diplomatic price he has paid for the passage of the UN resolution. There was an embarrassing argument yesterday about whether he would meet the Chinese foreign minister for the first time since the killings of Tiananmen Square — a reward, as many saw it, for Peking's withholding of its veto in the security council.

Other gifts from Washington are expected soon to be on their way round the world after a week in which America has coddled up to the Cubans, sweet-talked the Malaysians, shown understanding for Ethiopia's Marxist militants, and flashed fat chequebooks across Africa.

In his speech yesterday, Mr Bush was determined to show his critics the diplomatic gains. In inviting the Iraqi foreign minister, Tariq Aziz, to Washington to meet him in the company of other allied representatives, he was flaunting his confidence that solidarity could be maintained. Diplomats pointed out that the possible dates for the meeting included the time when the Soviet foreign minister, Eduard Shevardnadze, would be in the United States to prepare for the US-Soviet summit in January.

A joint US-Soviet-British-Saudi dressing-down for Iraq in Washington would be a dramatic forerunner of the talks between Mr Baker and President Saddam.

The White House is aware that the task of showing that war is a wise and worthwhile course did not end yesterday. The president told his troops at Thanksgiving that force might have to be used quickly to prevent President Saddam producing a nuclear bomb.



Isidoro Mahuquera, the Cuban foreign minister, at the United Nations, where he is supporting a resolution for a peaceful solution in the Gulf

Yemen leads face-saving move on Gulf

From JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

AFTER voting solidly to wield a big stick against Iraq to force it out of Kuwait, the United Nations Security Council may now offer President Saddam Hussein a carrot.

Yemen, one of only two nations to oppose the use of force resolution, assumes the council presidency today for the month of December and, with its allies, is planning to seek adoption of what it calls the "peace resolution". The draft, also backed by Colombia, Cuba and Malaysia, sets out a framework for an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, offering President Saddam a face-saving formula.

The move is partly in response to the Negotiations Project at Harvard University, which drafted an earlier version of the resolution. "At the moment, under current security council resolutions, if Saddam Hussein withdraws he looks like a loser," said Wayne Davis, the project's assistant director.

"He loses Kuwait, he loses the legitimate claims he has on the oil, he gives up on getting a port that he needs, and there is no guarantee that sanctions will stop," he said. "He can reasonably expect the United States and Saudi Arabia to try to continue sanctions."

"You need to clarify what the choices are on withdrawal," he added. "We have made very clear what the choices are if there is no withdrawal." A working paper

seeks to renew the demand for an unconditional withdrawal, release of hostages and restoration of the legitimate Kuwaiti government.

The first stage would be to dispatch UN peacekeeping forces to maintain law and order in Kuwait as Iraqi forces withdraw. The second stage would be implemented after the restoration of the status quo in Kuwait before the invasion on August 2. At that point, the draft promises that UN sanctions against Iraq will be lifted, foreign forces would be withdrawn from the region and the United Nations secretary-general, with the assistance of the Arab League, would begin mediation aimed at solving the differences between Iraq and Kuwait.

The UN secretary-general would also open consultations on new regional security arrangements. All financial claims not settled by negotiation would be referred to a special tribunal to be established by the International Court of Justice.

Finally, the security council would express "its determination, in contribution to the stability in the region through the upholding of the rule of law, to consider undertaking appropriate efforts to address peaceful solution of other problems in the region in compliance with outstanding resolutions".

Leading article, page 17

Iraqis say bribes won resolution

From NICHOLAS BEESTON IN BAGHDAD

IRAQ yesterday declared the latest United Nations resolution against its occupation of Kuwait to be "unjust, illegal and aggressive" and accused Washington and its allies of bribing some security council members to win their votes.

In its first official reaction to Resolution 678, calling on Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait by January 15 or face military action, President Saddam Hussein, the Revolutionary Command Council and the ruling Baath Party gave a warning that the allied forces in the Gulf faced a "telling lesson unprecedented in history" if they challenged Iraq on the battlefield.

In a televised announcement, Iraq claimed that America had succeeded in turning the security council into "a tool of American hegemony" and a "theatre for dirty deals".

"Sums were paid to some governments in the security council by the supporters of America, and huge pressures were employed on them directly by the president of the US and his secretary of state," a statement declared, referring to Iraqi claims that Saudi Arabia paid the Soviet Union millions of dollars to secure Moscow's vote.

The Iraqi reaction made no mention of the two most pressing questions in the Gulf deadlock, the continued occupation of Kuwait and the detention of thousands of foreigners in Iraq. Instead, Baghdad repeated its policy that a solution to the present conflict was possible only if all

the outstanding problems of the Middle East were tackled together. The restatement of Iraq's unyielding policy had been widely predicted by observers, who said Baghdad would probably wait until the very last moment before possibly revealing a more flexible position.

The Iraqi leadership went to great lengths to emphasise the West's "duplicitous" in concentrating its efforts on the Gulf while neglecting the decades-old problem of Palestine and Israel. The emphasis on linkage with the Palestinian question was a clear indication that Iraq plans to stir up resistance to the use of force against it by attempting to divert attention to Israel. Observers believed it could achieve some success in this approach because Yemen, its close Arab ally, which voted against the resolution, becomes president of the security council today and is likely to press for action against Israeli policies in the occupied territories.

● LONDON: Iraq continued yesterday to move more British hostages to strategic sites, replacing others who had been released after visits by Tony Benn, a Labour politician, and others (Andrew McEwen writes). About 60 Britons who were rounded up in Kuwait and transferred this week to the Mansour Melia Hotel in Baghdad have been sent on to defence installations or factories to become part of President Saddam's "human shield" against an allied attack.

Japanese endorse use of force

From JOE JOSEPH IN TOKYO

JAPAN yesterday joined its allies in backing the United Nations Security Council's resolution authorising the use of force against Baghdad if it fails to withdraw from Kuwait by mid-January.

The Japanese government, embarrassed by its recent failure to persuade parliament to send a contingent of non-combat troops to the Gulf, was keen to reaffirm its support for the anti-Iraq alliance. It has also been under pressure from Michael Armacost, America's ambassador to Tokyo, to give its blessing to the resolution.

Toshiki Kaifu, the Japanese prime minister, said: "It is a very significant resolution and I support it, but the Japanese stance on seeking a peaceful solution has not changed."

Worried lest the government's support for the UN resolution might provoke the sort of domestic anger that sank its troops bill, a Japanese foreign ministry official said that supporting the use of force against Iraq did not violate Japan's war-renouncing constitution, since Iraq was the aggressor.

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French opinion cools on troop use

From PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS

A NEW opinion poll has indicated growing opposition to the involvement of French troops in any military conflict. With President Mitterrand's strategy during the Gulf confrontation also losing ground significantly among the public, the minority Socialist government could be in for an awkward time while the days tick away to the January 15 deadline.

The most damaging finding of the latest *Le Figaro* poll on the Gulf is that while there has been a substantial increase among those who now fear war is inevitable — up from 41 to 59 per cent in the past three weeks — just 36 per cent of the people questioned were in

Iraq. A majority of the French who support the Socialists now oppose any such involvement. At the same time, public backing for full solidarity with Britain and the



United States in the Gulf continued to ebb, down another seven points to 40 per cent (though approval of President Bush's conduct during the confrontation has increased a little).

In the terse judgement of the staunchly conservative *Le Figaro*, after several months of waiting and watching the French are "less and less willing to die for Kuwait". If the apparent failure of United Nations sanctions to change President Saddam's mind has convinced them that force is now the only alternative, "our compatriots... prefer to leave it to our allies".

The findings of the poll, which was taken after the

unusually belligerent speech by the French foreign minister, Roland Dumas, in the National Assembly earlier this week.

According to M Dumas, who yesterday cast France's vote at the United Nations, Iraq now faces a choice between peace or war. Using the word "ultimatum" for the first time, M Dumas appealed to Baghdad to seize this "last chance" of avoiding conflict.

Yet, whatever the polls say, it is hard to conceive that, having voted for the use of force, France could remain on the sidelines if shooting starts.

● Poll shock: The popularity of the French prime minister, Michel Rocard, has sunk

Europe faces siege from a growing army of refugees

From MICHAEL BINYON IN BRUSSELS

FORTRESS Europe will soon start to raise the drawbridge. Under siege from a swelling army of political and economic refugees from North Africa, and faced with the prospect of up to three million Russians fleeing west to escape starvation, the European Community is considering drastic measures to stem the tidal wave of immigrants that threatens to engulf Western Europe.

Earlier this week the Soviet labour minister, Vladimir Shcherbakov, made a request to his Italian opposite number, Carlo Donat Cattin, for Europe to accept one million to three million migrant workers for training. But EC officials believe the request is only the thin end of the wedge, and that millions, driven by hunger and increasing anarchy at home, will stream into Eastern Europe and on into the community when passports are freely issued in the Soviet Union.

The frontline countries are reinforcing their borders to keep them out. Finland has already seen a jump in the number of Soviet immigrants from 50 to 2,000 a year, and is reinforcing patrols along its 800-mile frontier with the Soviet Union.

Finnish ice-breakers will ensure there is no ice bridge

across the Gulf of Finland from the Baltic states.

In Poland, where 70,000 Russians have already arrived as "tourists" or traders, contingency plans are being drawn up to turn former Soviet army barracks into emergency refugee centres. Polish immigration officials will meet their counterparts in other frontline states - Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Finland and Austria - in two weeks.

In Austria, the opposition is calling for tighter immigration controls, while plans to expel 1,200 Romanians have been delayed to give them a last chance to find jobs.

The European Community is the ultimate destination for most would-be Soviet migrants. The community will resist any call to ease entry for them. But Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia have also asked the commission to accept migrant workers. And as things worsen in Romania and Bulgaria, economic refugees are expected to try to get into the community through any open back door.

On Tuesday, EC foreign ministers will discuss the threat. Immigration from the Mediterranean rim is also rising fast: figures from a commission study to be published next week show that

over the next decade the EC population will increase by 2.4 million, only 0.7 per cent, whereas in the southern Mediterranean it will rise by 49.6 million, more than 20 per cent.

North Africa will account for 95 per cent of all the population growth in Europe and the Mediterranean. Turkey and Egypt alone will need to create 880,000 new jobs each year for ten years to cope with the additional supply of labour.

The report says all EC countries except the Irish Republic are destinations for immigrants from Africa and Asia because of easier communication, cheaper transport and a greater awareness in the Third World of the wealth gap between the north and south.

The EC is proposing much tighter controls, but the single market has made these more difficult to enforce. The five-nation Schengen group, comprising France, Germany and the Benelux countries, has already abolished all internal frontier checks. Italy, with a million illegal immigrants already, and a long unguarded coastline, joined the group on Tuesday, thus immediately opening up a conduit to the richer north.

Leading article, page 17



Manch time: a boy at a Moscow school for retarded children enjoying his first meal made from German food aid

KGB to supervise food aid deliveries

From REUTERS IN MOSCOW

RADICAL leaders of the city council in Leningrad, where formal rationing of staple foods is to come into force today, and in Moscow say that they suspect Communist hardliners are trying to use the shortages to turn people against them.

"I have no doubt there is

some of this going on," a senior foreign envoy said, "but the key problems are in hopeless distribution and the political struggle between the republics and regions among themselves and against the centre in Moscow."

Yesterday the KGB reported that it had set up a

special group to protect food supplies throughout the Soviet Union, but foreign diplomats said there was at the moment little sign of real hunger in the country.

In a statement the KGB said the special group would be responsible for fighting economic sabotage as well as

supervision of deliveries of food aid sent from abroad in response to appeals.

Despite clearly deepening economic and political difficulties and an almost complete disappearance of basic goods from state shops, there was little sign in Moscow yesterday that the position was as desperate as it is apparently perceived to be in the outside world. "We see no credible evidence of anything approaching famine anywhere in the country at this stage," the senior foreign envoy, who has many years of experience in Soviet affairs, said. "I see a tendency to dramatise all this in the West."

Over the past few days, in the wake of President Gorbachev's presentation of a shopping list to Western leaders in Paris, last week, food and medical aid has begun to arrive in Moscow, especially from Germany.

Soviet diplomats and other officials in several countries have made dramatic calls for assistance, declaring that the present difficult situation could worsen as winter takes a grip and snow and ice hinder the transport of goods.

Moscow admits omission on arms

From BRENDA FOWLER IN VIENNA

THE Soviet Union's chief conventional arms negotiator acknowledged yesterday that his country may have left out information on Soviet forces that was to have been provided under the Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty.

"We are all human and one cannot exclude any mistakes," said Oleg Grinevsky, at a press conference after the first week of a new round of conventional forces negotiations. But he said there might also be omissions or mistakes in the information provided by other countries and said the Soviet Union would move to update or correct its information if necessary.

Since the signing of the treaty two weeks ago at the summit in Paris, Western diplomats have expressed concern over what they see as "incomplete" information on Soviet forces provided by Russians. But they said it was too early to be alarmed.

"The treaty provides for 90 days after the exchange of information to correct the information," one Western diplomat said.

Under the treaty, each Nato and Warsaw Pact country was required to provide detailed information on the number, type and location of its conventional forces.

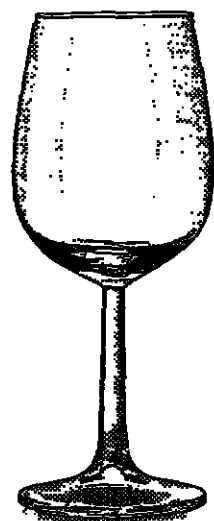
What especially concerned some Nato negotiators was the low numbers the Russians provided for their artillery pieces and "objects of verification", which are sites where equipment covered by the treaty is held. Western diplomats said. Last summer, Soviet negotiators had said they had about 18,300 artillery pieces but in the exchange of information only 13,850 artillery pieces were listed.

The number of tanks listed was also lower than expected. Mr Grinevsky said that since July 1, 1988, the Soviet Union had moved 16,682 tanks east of the Urals, leaving 24,898 in Europe subject to cuts under the terms of the treaty, which allows each alliance 20,000. He said the tanks were moved after President Gorbachev announced unilateral arms cuts two years ago.

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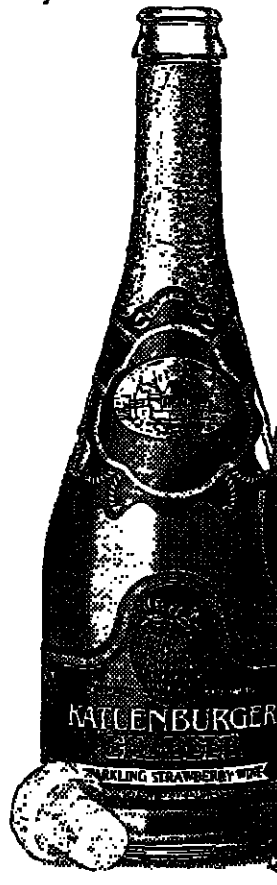
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Sofia MPs 'linked to secret police'

From TIM JUDAH IN SOFIA

THE question of how many MPs worked as agents for the former internal security services threatens to blow apart Bulgarian politics, in the same manner as the discrediting of the disbanded East German parliament, the Volkskammer.

Tackling the question has been put off, but there are increasing demands for the secret police files, particularly of the infamous Department 6 of the ministry of the interior, to be opened.

The problem is bound to be in the minds of Bulgaria's senior politicians after the collapse on Thursday night of Andrei Lukinov's Socialist administration and the announcement that a government of national consensus was being set up.

Dragomir Draganov, an MP and leading radical reform member of the Socialist Party, said yesterday: "The minute the accord over the formation of the new government has been formed, I am going to go in front of parliament and demand that the files be opened. I have heard it said

that about 94 out of our 400 MPs were either secret police agents or informers, and I want to know who they are... I don't want to work with corrupt politicians."

Mr Draganov emphasised that as far as he was concerned the issue of who had worked for the secret police was a "moral issue", though he conceded he would be more than happy if the opening of the files helped reform the Socialist Party (the former communist party) by helping bring down senior figures he regarded as backward-looking hardliners. However, he added: "The files will be impartial. The bad people are not just on my side of the house."

The question of the secret police files was given added urgency after an unauthorised plane left Sofia on the day the government fell. There was widespread speculation in Sofia yesterday that the Bulgarian secret services have begun to fly out the files, and possibly some of their personnel, to safety.

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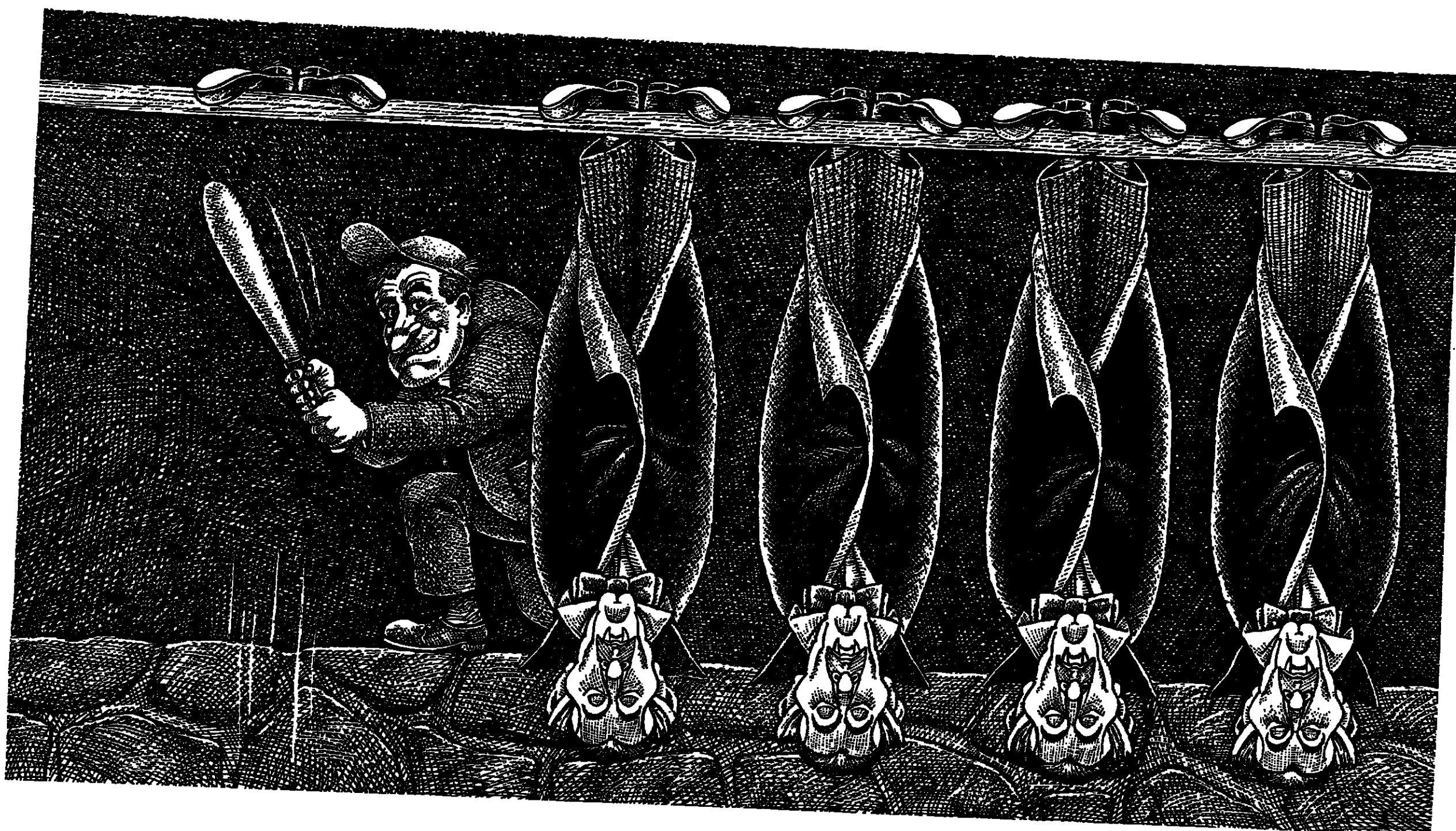
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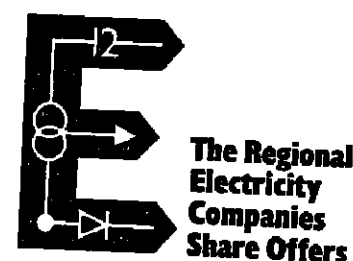
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A SHARPER POINT OF VIEW

Poles queue to buy shares as privatisation drive begins

FROM ROGER BOYES
IN WARSAW

POLAND'S revolution moved yesterday from the streets and the ballot box into the banks. The old slogans of "fraternity and equality" were scrubbed out and replaced with talk of dividends and profit. Five state companies were privatised, the first of many hundreds, and thousands of Poles queued to buy up shares.

The privatisation has become a hot political issue. The dark horse challenger for the Polish presidency, the businessman Stanislaw Tyminski, says that the assets of the companies have been deliberately understated by the government in an attempt to sell Poland cheaply to the West.

The government says he has got his figures wrong. But Lech Walesa, the front-runner for the presidency, is vulnerable on the issue. He favours

even speedier privatisation and workers, suddenly aware that the market revolution may cost them their jobs, are deserting him in droves. Forty per cent of those who voted for Mr Tyminski in the first round say they did so out of fear of privatisation.

Mr Walesa has become visibly nervous. The Silesian miners and steel workers are with Mr Tyminski, and more may follow. "I am horrified by the degree to which society is dissatisfied with us," Mr Walesa told the Solidarity national commission. Mr Walesa's own scheme to ally workers' fears about privatisation - issuing everybody with £5,000 share vouchers - has been discreetly dropped.

At the PKO Bank in Warsaw's appropriately named Credit Street, there were a dozen buyers at 8 am. Reports from around the country spoke of several thousand share buyers - more

than 200 outlets are selling the shares for the next three weeks - but there was not the same popular storm as for British Gas or British Telecom shares in Britain.

It was a rather orderly queue in Credit Street, like academics in a redbrick college refectory. "I suppose it is worth doing," said a middle-aged engineer. "The government says that there will be inflation of 30 per cent next year, so it will probably be much more. This is a good investment."

He was buying into Prochnik, a medium-sized clothes factory (sales worth £3 million in the first half of 1990) that makes trenchcoats for men and a range of women's garments. Eighty per cent of the shares are being offered to the public, 20 per cent at half the market price to the workers.

The five companies - there will be a new wave of privatisation in January -

are all high export performers and include a building materials company, a maker of hi-fi equipment and a glassware enterprise. The government plan, which may even be accelerated under President Walesa, is to privatise half of state industry within five years. By the end of 1993 private shareholders should own more than half of 450 large companies that are currently owned by the state.

There has been an intensive television and newspaper advertising campaign to persuade Poles to mobilise their savings and become small-time capitalists.

But Mr Tyminski has hit a real nerve by suggesting that there is not enough domestic capital to support such a huge privatisation - and that big Western players will treat Polish companies as a bargain-basement investment. A government opinion poll found that only

23.8 per cent of Poles were ready to consider share ownership. One fundamental problem is that there is still no stock exchange. Part of the old communist party headquarters is being refurbished to provide a trading floor, but the bourse will not be operating until the middle of next year.

Even committed free marketers in the government are anxious that the country will go too far, too fast, down the privatisation road. Dr Michal Wojcik, deputy industry minister and a disciple of Milton Friedman, is cautious: "I believe in many cases privatisation is not what we need most. In some big factories, units are being broken up to make privatisation easier, but in the great majority of these cases this is a mistake."

The man leading this rush to capitalism is also becoming a pivotal man in the political game: the 43-year-old

finance minister and deputy prime minister, Leszek Balcerowicz. Mr Walesa has spotted a political anomaly. Dr Balcerowicz's personal popularity ratings are very high, yet his programme (which encompasses bankruptcies and unemployment) is deeply unpopular.

This, and the need to reassure the West about his presidency, persuaded Mr Walesa to hint strongly that Dr Balcerowicz will be the next prime minister. Now Mr Walesa's advisers are telling him that this was a mistake.

First, it has given some easy election ammunition to Mr Tyminski. Second, it has given Dr Balcerowicz real political muscle. If Dr Balcerowicz is appointed prime minister and then resigns because of tinkering by President Walesa or his encouragement, that would seriously dent international confidence in the new head of state.

Victory but no landslide awaits Kohl in elections

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN

FOR THE first time since November 6, 1932, voters of a united Germany go to the polls tomorrow to elect a democratic parliament. This historic occasion marks the final stage in a unification process which the nation can still scarcely believe has happened.

The consequence is that Helmut Kohl, whose control of events after the Berlin Wall came down last year was masterly, is assured of a third consecutive mandate. This will allow him to form another coalition between his Christian Democrats (CDU), the Bavarian Christian Social Union (CSU), and the liberal Free Democrats (FDP).

At the same time a mixture of poll weariness in the east and uncertainty about the future in the west means that a high proportion of voters have remained undecided about whom to support. In eastern Germany, where there have been three elections since last March, 12 per cent still had not made up their minds, a Wickert Institute poll found yesterday. In the west 17 per cent were undecided.

There are 59.9 million eligible voters for the 3,696 candidates of the 24 parties contesting 656 Bundestag seats. Half these seats are for constituencies and the other half are for a list put up by each party in each state.

Every party scoring more than 5 per cent is awarded seats in proportion to the support for its list. The voter has two ballots, one for the constituency and one for the list, so there is a mix of the first-past-the-post and the proportional representation systems.

The picture has been further complicated by a ruling that the 5 per cent hurdle applies differently in each part of the country. This means that a party will need 2.5 million votes in the west but only around 600,000 in the east in order to win seats. This rule means that there is still a chance for the communists, now the Party of Democratic Socialism, to win a few seats, as well as the alliance of citizens' groups and Greens in the east.

Herr Kohl's claim to be "the



Photo opportunity: a Russian soldier dwarfed by a poster of Helmut Kohl in Schwerin

Poster war rages ahead of Berlin poll

FROM ANNE McELVOY IN BERLIN

AT DAWN yesterday, Jürgen Sassner was patrolling the chilly length of east Berlin's Prenzlauer Allee with a trolley full of posters of Oskar Lafontaine, the Social Democrat candidate for the chancellorship in tomorrow's elections.

"We start early to beat the opposition," he said, glancing yet another SPD poster over a Christian Democrat hearing. By 9 am, Herr Sassner had left 35 posters along the length of the street, and few residents of northeast Berlin could have escaped Herr Lafontaine's omnipresence.

A mere half-hour after his departure, however, Christian Sobst arrived with the same zealous gleam in his eye and began pasting pictures of Helmut Kohl - "Chancellor for Germany" - over Herr Sassner's handiwork.

With Berlin ranked as one of the least predictable results in an otherwise predictable election, the poster war has taken on a feverish intensity in the final hours before voting begins tomorrow morning.

Teams of party supporters have been vandalising their opponents' advertising. There is scarcely a poster in the east

bearing the message: "The CDU was never so necessary", which has not been torn down by the malicious deletion of a single syllable to make it read "The CDU was never so two-faced".

Berlin, which has lately sought its identity as a bright contrast to worthy old Bonn with a rather chaotic Red-Green governing coalition to match, is now campaigning to be the seat of government.

On both sides of the former border the shape of the city's parliament, the Senate, is attracting more interest than the extent of the CDU victory nationwide.

The Social Democrats led by Walter Momper, the popular ruling mayor, hopes to buck the national trend by gaining "40 plus X" per cent of the vote, enabling it to restore the famed coalition with the leftwing Alternative List.

Years of geographical and constitutional rearrangement from Bonn have resulted in the city developing a more aggressive, street-led political culture. The Social Democrats, fearing that they could be hurt by the anti-left swing since the fall of the former

East German regime, pursued an uncompromising strategy with squatters last month which included police tactics reminiscent rather of hyper-orderly Bavaria than traditionally liberal "Red Berlin".

Berlin's Christian Democrats hope for a return to power in a grand coalition on the basis of the eastern "gratitude vote" for unity. Meanwhile the Liberal Free Democrats, who did not even enter the Senate in the last elections, hope that the presence of Carola von Braun, a progressive countess, will help them clear the 5 per cent hurdle and make them a possible coalition partner.

Rightists 'attacked children'

FROM AP
IN JOHANNESBURG

TWELVE white men have been arrested in connection with an assault on black children in a park last weekend. The arrests came as police disclosed that four bodies of people apparently killed in political or tribal unrest were found in the Bekkersdal black township, southwest of Johannesburg.

Several children were injured when a group of right-wing extremists attacked a church outing on Sunday at a park in Louis Trichardt, in the country's far north. The men told the church group it could not use the park, then attacked the children with whips, fan belts, hoses and sticks. The children ranged in age from seven to 14.

Police said 12 men were arrested on Thursday night on charges of public violence and that the investigation continued. They added that whips, hose pipe and fan belts had been seized as evidence.

The government recently lifted apartheid laws that had segregated public facilities such as parks, swimming pools and libraries. Some conservative towns in South Africa have closed facilities rather than permit blacks to use them.

In Bekkersdal, the body of a man who had been stabbed was found on Thursday, and three other bodies of people killed by shotgun or stab wounds were discovered on Friday. More than 800 people have been killed in Johannesburg area townships since August in clashes between African National Congress and Inkatha Freedom Party supporters.

Mother 'awarded custody'

Washington - A New Zealand judge awarded custody of Hilary, aged seven, to her mother, Dr Elizabeth Morgan, in a highly publicised child custody battle, according to the US television station WJLA-TV, which also reported that the father, Dr Eric Foreich, had said that he would not pursue the case.

Dr Morgan had accused Dr Foreich of sexually abusing Hilary and sent her into hiding when a US court granted him unsupervised visiting rights. She spent 25 months in jail for refusing to disclose the whereabouts of Hilary, who had been in hiding in New Zealand for more than two years before her discovery in summer. Dr Foreich has always denied allegations he had sexually abused the child. (Reuters)

Miners strike

Ankara - In the biggest stoppage since Turkey granted unions the right to strike in 1963, 48,000 miners walked off their jobs after a breakdown in pay talks. The state companies offered annual 75 per cent pay rises but the unions wanted the average monthly wage of £92 to be raised fivefold. (AP)

Boat tragedy

Santo Domingo - A boat taking Dominican illegal immigrants to Puerto Rico sank, drowning eight and leaving about 30 others missing after 20 were rescued. (Reuters)

Climbing death

Wellington - Walter Hume Hogg, aged 24, a chemical engineer from Glasgow, was killed while climbing New Zealand's Southern Alps. (AFP)

Supermarket cuts French cost of dying

FROM PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS

MICHEL Leclerc is a man with an idea whose time has come, the proof of which is the new "Supermarket of Death" that opens its doors today in Créteil l'Echat, southeast of Paris. The first of its kind in France, set up in the teeth of opposition from the official monopoly that controls the funeral business, it will cater

for customers looking, in M Leclerc's inspired phrase, for "death at half price".

According to his vision, people will collect a big trolley at the entrance, then wander through the aisles, picking up a nice little headstone here, a wreath of artificial flowers there, a grieving angel or two for the foot of the grave. "One

day, perhaps, my supermarkets will help to take some of the fear out of death," M Leclerc suggests: some of the considerable expense, too, what with an extensive range of cut-price coffins.

Like pioneers in every field of human endeavour, he has faced stern resistance from the establishment, mostly in the shape of the network of Pompes Funèbres Générales. Since anything of significance in France involves serious paperwork, dying and being buried is a process governed by an array of minutely detailed official regulations, some dating back to last century. There are codes about preservation of corpses, codes about funeral processions, and codes about the size and material and price of coffins (extras not included in category C, tinted hardwood).

Thanks to a long-established system, the recipients of official monopolies granted by communes all over France have prospered mightily. In Paris, for instance, the municipal funeral service firms out work to private enterprises. With the average cost of a basic burial now some- where in the region of 15,000 francs (about £1,500), M Leclerc reckons the total market - accessories and decor-

share of that has landed M Leclerc in much legal trouble, on the receiving end of suits from Pompes Funèbres Générales and others accusing him of violating their monopoly.

Undaunted and unshakably convinced of the demand for self-service death on the cheap, he got around the law in Créteil by constructing his supermarket with a floor area marginally smaller than that which would have required official authorisation.

M Leclerc expects most of his customers will be interested in ensuring a properly impressive funeral for themselves when their time comes. He is also hoping to attract people who want something to spruce up the family tomb.

With manic concern for the small print, French funeral regulations also set out, to the very last sou, what extra costs will have to be borne.

In Paris, there is a municipal tax of 150 francs on every burial: inhumation is calculated at a further 70 francs per square metre, exhumation costs a flat 253 francs plus police charges and the cost of hiring a gravedigger.

If death takes place on the public highway - not at all an unlikely event given local driving habits - Paris also levies a charge for ramassage,

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Get your skates on!

Supermarket cuts French cost of dying

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But men just won't wear it

Clifford Longley

At the very moment Mrs Thatcher's career was wobbling on the brink, a memorial service was held at Westminster Abbey for Lady Home, a more conventional former female occupant of 10 Downing Street. In the congregation of past and present government luminaries, the women mostly wore hats, the men were all bare-headed, for that is the custom. Its origins are well enough known; and from its origins, its meaning. Women should cover their heads in church, said St Paul, out of respect for male authority and to show that it is wrong for women to have authority over men.

It hardly needs saying that this is not why most women wear hats in the abbey that day. The convention is enough. What does need saying is that for women to have authority over men is not yet as fully accepted as the other way round. There has been little comment so far on the possibility that the mixed feelings about Mrs Thatcher, even her downfall, may stem partly from the fact that she is a woman.

People's minds may tell them women are the equal of men, but the amen from their hearts is often muffled. As Jung discovered, religion is an excellent short cut to the depths of the human psyche. How people behave in church is an indication of what goes on in those depths. While 99 per cent of the population appear to accept that women should exercise authority in the political sphere, the proportion hesitant about or downright opposed to women having authority in the religious sphere is substantially larger.

Among active members of the Church of England they constitute about a third. Whether a typical member of that third has an unconscious distaste for the idea of a woman prime minister, only his (or indeed her) psychiatrist could say. Those who criticise Mrs Thatcher's style sometimes mention her voice or even her hair — and the famous handbag. Listening to the debate on female ordination in the Church of England, the similarity of the prejudices unveiled there is striking — "handbags on the altar" is a favourite snarl (in private).

Straight misogyny they will deny, as emphatically as do Mrs Thatcher's detractors. Even chapter 11 of St Paul's first letter to the Corinthians makes them vastly uneasy, because it is so far from the wrong side of the contemporary liberal picket line. "For a man it is not right to have his head covered, since he is the image of God and reflects God's glory; but woman is the reflection of man's glory. For man did not come from woman; nor woman came from man; nor was man created for the sake of woman, but woman for the sake of man; and that is why it is right for a woman to wear on her head a sign of the authority over her..." The Archbishop-elect of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, wrote a memorandum on this subject in 1987 for a church commission which was discussing women bishops. It has only now been published, having been rejected as a draft for a chapter in the report, after, we are told, "heated exchanges". In his draft, Dr Carey argues that women have been admitted to roles of authority in society and have shown their ability as leaders, and that this may be pointing the church towards the need for a break with its own tradition, overriding St Paul. At the beginning of the debate 20 years ago, supporters of female ordination did not base their argument on woman's equal status in society. Rather, they said that in the name of justice the church should lead secular opinion to accept women clergy, just as a church in a racist society should ordain black priests to confront white prejudice with the justice demanded by the Gospel.

What is now argued is the exact reverse, that women feel alienated in church, and will stop going — or not start to go — unless the ordained ministry is as fully opened to both sexes as are leadership roles in secular society. So is this a circular argument, or can they have it both ways? They can, but only if the *a priori* assumption of the justice of female equality is based on some other ground than social acceptability. "We are agreed," wrote Dr Carey, in the tone of a drafter of a consensus document, "that the ordination of women... has to be justified on theological grounds" and not "simply" by reference to what has happened in society. He might have added that the church must also decide if what has happened in secular society can be justified on theological grounds.

But his problem is that the normative Scriptural text on male authority over women is 1 Corinthians 11, the memory of which is so entrenched that it continues to dictate customs in headwear among the rulers (and churchgoers) of secular Britain and their wives and husbands. It is not enough to say, as Dr Carey does, that "the entire passage bristles with exegetical problems", as if that raises a theological doubt, because the only problems it bristles with are those arising from its rejection by society. Virtually the entire content of Christianity has that problem.

The Church of England cannot answer the question of whether or not St Paul had a good point just by referring to contemporary secular practice, particularly if it reads that practice only one way, by excluding all the evidence that female equality, particularly equality in authority, is still a change only very slowly, generation by generation. They may yet change completely, but it is much too soon to be certain. The Church of England will have to be patient.

...and moreover

MATTHEW PARRIS

As Thursday's vote at the UN proves, time is running out. Saddam Hussein cannot continue like this. He cannot, that is, carry on shouldering, alone, the burden of being principal world villain.

Already the strain is beginning to tell. For one undistinguished leader of one minor country, it is an enormous task he has taken on. His record of villainy is, to give him his due, promising, but weighed in the international balance, not unusual. And it is now hard to see what scope remains for new atrocities to hold our attention. For the world must have an enemy. Now that we no longer believe in Satan yet believe still in sin — now that there is no supernatural Evil One in our mythology — some human replacement must plainly be found to draw together the threads of our hatred of evil.

The quest is urgent, for the Evil Empire has gone. A comfortable glow of nostalgia now bathes the cold war, when everybody knew who the enemy was; that enemy is reduced to such a state that we now contemplate sending food parcels. We should give generously, if only in gratitude for a magnificent performance, sustained for nearly half a century and responsible for an era of rock-solid international stability. But the Russians have done their bit, and deserve a rest.

They stepped in to replace the greatest star turn of the century, perhaps of all time. In the annals of evil, Adolf Hitler's was unparalleled. The decision to award him this role was, of course, rather subsequent to the decision to attack him — made for other reasons. But we have rewritten that chapter, and the Germans have more than pulled their weight as the beasts of Europe, for two world wars.

In the beasts of Europe slot, the Russians did an earlier stint. The old Tsarist order for which we now affect some sentimental regard took over from the French (a sterling performance, there, right up to Waterloo) and managed the long haul through the latter part of the 19th century before handing the baton on to the Kaiser. When the Ottomans, our allies,

slaughtered a few thousand Bulgarians in a doubtless routine way, only Mr Gladstone raised an eyebrow.

Mind you, they don't make evil empires like they used to. Look at imperial Spain! Wow! Rape, pillage, genocide, Inquisition... a good job they didn't win, though, or our own piratical deeds might have to be re-indexed under V for Villainy instead of H for Heroism.

Those were the days when there was no "western world" and no "international opinion". It was possible to run a number of villains simultaneously, with views differing from country to country as to who the real villains were. Even last century, the Americans tended to see us, the British, as the evil empire, although this was completely without foundation of course.

But now the age of mass-communication makes any serious dissent as to who is to be cast in which role an irritating impediment to news-management; and, more and more, we agree to agree. So it is wrong to complain that until recently our choice of (say) South Africa to be indignant about — rather than (say) Zaire, Guinea Bissau or Rwanda — is indicative of hypocrisy.

We have neither the time nor the focus to be indignant about too many places at once. And there is another thing in our strong but unconscious residual mythology, evil has one source, not many. It must flow from somewhere. We like to know where.

Accepting that, you may see the force in what I now propose. We should abandon the pretence at rationality, admit that the thing is a necessary lottery, and institutionalise the lottery.

Just as we have a "book of the month" or a "year of the disabled", so we should adopt a "world enemy of the year". Iraq (previously, and under the same regime, our ally) has a little further to run. Syria would have been a good next choice, but we have just restored diplomatic relations. So what about Burundi? Or Indonesia which invaded East Timor recently with absolutely no complaint from anyone outside?

Any other bids?

The Times Profile: with a third term virtually assured in tomorrow's elections, Helmut Kohl will further enhance his standing as the strong man of Europe

Emperor of all he surveys



Winning ways: after eight years in office, Kohl looks to the East to help him to another four

If Margaret Thatcher was the bravest European statesman of our time, Helmut Kohl is the most successful. At her best Mrs Thatcher recalled Elizabeth I. As he nears the culminating triumph of his *annus mirabilis*, victory tomorrow in the first federal election of the reunited Germany, Helmut Kohl's rule begins to resemble that of a latter-day medieval emperor: a Frederick Barbarossa.

His period in office has yet to surpass hers: eight years to her 11 and a half, but Kohl has already led the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) for even longer than she led the Tories — 17 years. He is still only 60: 13 years younger than the only comparable figure, Konrad Adenauer, when he took office.

A third successive term will establish the Kohl era alongside those of Adenauer (1949-1963) and Brandt/Schmidt (1969-1982) as the third distinct phase in the rise of the German Federal Republic. It has been Kohl's good fortune (he would say the grace of God) to preside over the most epic story of all.

He has outlasted most of his political contemporaries; among elder statesmen, only Willy Brandt and President von Weizsäcker are still active. A youth spent in the harsh years of the occupation and the head years of the *Wirtschaftswunder* still determines his attitudes to social, economic and foreign issues — and to the German Question. When Kohl is confronted by hardship in the eastern regions, he can claim to have seen it all before in the late 1940s.

The children of the Nazis, the rebels now entering middle age, have no time for Kohl's homely, patriotic, anti-ideological politics. But the youngest generation of voters cannot remember a time when this genial Rhenish giant was not reassuring them that they need not worry about their German identities, as their parents did and still do endlessly.

The sermoniser has become a miracle-worker — spectacularly so in the East, where he has convinced a majority that they have nothing to fear but their own anxiety. Kohl's career is now at its zenith, but he clearly has a head for heights. How solid, though, is the pedestal of the colossus?

Political power in Germany, now a single state with two competing capitals, derives from the possession of a *Hausmacht*, an independent power-base in the provinces. Kohl is now so dominant that his dukes, the Christian Democrat minister-presidents of the *Länder* (provinces), have ceased to conspire against him.

Bavaria was for many years a competing centre of gravity, run by its own "sister-party", the Christian Social Union (CSU). It was ruled with great aplomb until two years ago by the late Franz Josef Strauss, who at times posed as much of a threat to Kohl as Duke Henry the Lion did to Barbarossa. Since the death of the lion of Bavaria, Kohl has bound the new CSU leader, Theo Waigel, to the fortunes of the government by charging him, as finance minister, with the reconstruction of the East. Waigel's fealty is secure.

Others who once coveted the imperial crown — such as the defence minister, Gerhard Stoltenberg — have long since settled for the roles of loyal retainers. Even the economic wizard of Baden-Württemberg, Lothar Späth, who 18 months ago was a dangerous rival, is expected to serve in the chancellor's reshuffled cabinet. Kohl can afford to keep his henchmen on a long leash, because he has never neglected the national, regional or local levels of the CDU. Mrs Thatcher's inter-

national standing may have been higher than Kohl's, but he is far less vulnerable to a palace coup than she proved to be. Kohl knows personally every town's CDU bigwig, and he is a consummate wielder of patronage.

He has paid a heavy price for that. Kohl's public joviality has masked the severe strains on his marriage. He has pursued his political career so single-mindedly as to leave little time for his wife, Hannelore. Their marriage is a practical partnership rather than a great romance. They rarely entertain privately together; Kohl prefers to eat out with his political cronies. He can be boorish towards women, as Mrs Thatcher had occasion to discover. The court of Helmut Kohl, now basking in the glory of its sovereign, is a very masculine affair.

After his third major election campaign in a year, Kohl moves around Germany like a benevolent patriarch. He no longer deigns even to mention by name his opponent from the Social Democrats, Oskar Lafontaine, except as "the gentleman from the Saarland". Indeed, the SPD's campaign has looked increasingly pitiful ever since that great day a year ago when the Wall was stormed after a premature announcement by the tottering East German regime.

When, soon after November 9, Kohl put forward his famous ten-point plan for reunification, the SPD was caught on the hop. Not that Kohl and his advisers had expected the sudden turn of events, but the chancellor's personal commitment to reunification made a speedy adaptation to the new circumstances much easier than it was for the opposition. Lafontaine was temperamentally and culturally out of sympathy with the whole inexorable movement towards a single Germany. He was a prisoner of a Bonn coterie of champagne socialists which could not revert to the

anti-communism of the old SPD. Kurt Schmumacher, leader in the post-war years, was the last of the party's German nationalist Mohicans. Lafontaine had nothing to say to the East. Even the septuagenarian Willy Brandt was far more potent in ravaged Brandenburg than a chancellor-candidate 30 years his junior.

Kohl has not allowed himself to be deterred from mixing with the populace, despite recent security breaches. First Kohl's partner in bailing out Gorbachev, the head of the Deutsche Bank, Alfred

"Kohl is unlikely ever to agree to allow Poland, Czechoslovakia or Hungary to join the EC. German influence would be diluted and his dream of a united western Europe made impossible"

Herrhausen, was blown up. Then Oskar Lafontaine was stabbed in the neck, almost fatally, by a deranged woman. Finally Kohl's right-hand man, the interior minister Wolfgang Schäuble, was shot, leaving him paralysed from the waist down.

The chancellor had leant so heavily on Schäuble in the past, notably in relations with the East, that loyalty to his crippled heir apparent was instinctive. Like Mrs Thatcher, who endured the deaths and injuries of intimates at the hands of the IRA with impressive stoicism, Kohl has earned general respect by encouraging Schäuble to soldier on in his post.

Generosity to a subordinate in

trouble is, however, the exception rather than the rule with Kohl. On one occasion he gave one of his most senior officials a public dressing-down before dozens of journalists at a chancellery press conference. The poor man's only crime had been a failure to fetch the right statistics quickly when *der Chef* needed them.

Indeed *der Chef* has few, if any, close friends outside his kitchen cabinet. Kohl's trustees have mostly been with him since his salad days as premier of the Rhineland-Palatinate.

Surprisingly — since the chancellor's vengeance is rarely mitigated by time — his old rival of the 1970s, Kurt Biedenkopf, was recently allowed to make a comeback in one of the eastern provinces. Occasionally Kohl has brushed aside long-standing associates, such as the speaker of the Bundestag, Philipp Jenninger, who was accused of presenting Nazi crimes in too sympathetic a light. The former CDU general secretary, Heiner Geissler, became too treacherous and, despite having given Kohl two election victories, was ruthlessly dumped.

Geissler's young successor Volker Rühe aspires to usurp the all-powerful foreign ministry from Kohl's ageing coalition ally, Hans-Dietrich Genscher. But Genscher's Free Democrats are strong in the East, and will do well tomorrow. Their hold over the foreign ministry is likely to be extended even after Genscher's retirement.

The turbulent alliance of Kohl and the world's most experienced foreign minister has, indeed, been the fixed point of West German politics ever since the Free Democrats abandoned Helmut Schmidt to his left-wing rebels in 1982. Over the past year it has proved invaluable, as Genscher cashed in his diplomatic chips in East and West to smooth the way to reunification.

This year, however, Kohl's own statesmanship, hitherto slightly overshadowed by Genscher's, has

acquired true stature. It was he, not Genscher, who finally extracted the decisive concession — Nato membership of a united Germany — from Mikhail Gorbachev, at their momentous summit in the Caucasus last summer.

Considering that Gorbachev was freezing Kohl out as recently as 1987, when he had already met Mrs Thatcher and Ronald Reagan several times, the promotion of the German chancellor to become the Soviet president's most important ally is extraordinary. But Kohl is too calculating a politician to be captivated by predecessors in the field of Russo-German rapprochement, who to western eyes may look sinister: Yorck at Tauraggen, Bismarck's Dreikaiserbund and Rathenau at Rapallo (not to mention Ribbentrop). Like other western leaders, Kohl is hedging his bets on the survival of Gorbachev and of the Soviet Union itself.

His shilly-shallying over the border with Poland last February was a sign of impatience with those who, as he sees it, use allusions to the Nazis to prevent Germany regaining her place in the sun. Strict adherence to constitutional procedure is an integral part of his creed, and Kohl had been told by his top judges that he had no right to offer binding guarantees on behalf of East Germany. He took a long time to comprehend the dismay of the Poles over his delay in promising a treaty immediately after reunification.

It was an uncharacteristic blunder, because Kohl had pursued a shrewd and far-sighted policy towards Poland over the previous year. By refusing to bail out the communist Rakowski government, he had ensured Solidarity's accession to power. If Lech Walesa, whom Kohl admires, now wins the Polish presidency, relations with Germany should become more cordial.

But under Helmut Kohl Germany is most unlikely ever to agree to allow Poland, Czechoslovakia or Hungary to join the European Community. This is partly because of the strength of the German anti-immigration lobby, which has gained new recruits among poor and resentful East Germans, but also for more Machiavellian reasons. As client states on the fringes of the Community, the new democracies are beholden to Germany, but have no automatic claim on German subsidies. As EC member states, they would dilute Germany's influence. A far more heterogeneous Community, embracing most of the continent west of the Soviet Union, would render impossible Kohl's dream of following German unification with the unification of Western Europe.

Kohl's policy towards his western partners has never wavered in its ultimate aim. He believes in the post-war myth of a federal Europe, which was intended to counterbalance the two superpowers, and now, consequently, looks dated. Kohl's version would, of course, be loosely based on the constitution of the Federal Republic, in which, like the German *Länder*, nation would retain sovereignty only over limited areas of domestic politics.

At bottom this is a backward-looking vision, for it would create something like the international system of medieval Christendom, rather than the more sharply defined Europe of nation states which has prevailed since the Reformation. For Helmut Kohl, the Rhenish Catholic, nothing could be more congenial. Others, however, will remember that the medieval Roman empire was, for most of its history, dominated by the Germans.

camera crews have the daunting task of trying to film the space station racing across the sky — not easy given that it takes a mere ten minutes to traverse Japan.

On his journey into space Akiyama will be accompanied by six tree frogs, to be used for behavioural experiments outside the earth's gravity field. All faced stiff competition to get on the flight. Akiyama was chosen from 163 journalists, the six cosmo-amphibians from 1,500 rivals.

Tribute uncrowned

More news about the absence of the film of the Queen's coronation from the BBC's screening last night of *Richard Dimbleby: Voice of the Nation*. A Buckingham Palace spokesman confirms, as the *Diary* reported yesterday, that permission had been sought to use the film and was refused. "The actual moment of crowning is a very special and private one and permission for it to be used is only very rarely given," says the spokesman. "Other film of the Coronation ceremony can be much more freely used."

Ludovic Kennedy, who wrote and introduced the programme, insists that the moment of crowning is public, not private. His view is supported by David Williamson, senior editor of *Debut*: "Her Majesty was crowned in front of her subjects. That had to be a public moment. I recall that the Queen taking communion was not televised, and that I can understand. But it does seem odd that she should not allow film of the actual crowning to be used."

Kennedy adds: "The crowning has been shown on television without number in the last 37 years. The difference was that permission was not sought."

Joining Major's meritocracy

There may be no women in John Major's cabinet, but the Conservative Party will be able to trumpet one equal opportunity breakthrough today: the selection of a first black MP.

John Taylor, a former barrister and now a £30,000-a-year adviser on immigration at the Home Office, is due to be formally adopted by Cheltenham Conservative association as its prospective parliamentary candidate this morning. He will have beaten off 260 other applicants, among them former MPs Piers Merchant and Geoffrey Lawlor. If the seat is not quite immune from a Liberal Democrat surge — Sir Charles Irving had a majority in 1987 of just under 5,000 — Tory leaders are certain that Taylor will join them at Westminster after the next election. Sir Charles, who is retiring, has held the seat since 1974 and the local Liberal Democrats are divided over their own choice of candidate.

Although the party has tried to keep the selection quiet in advance of today's formal adoption, the 36-year-old Taylor confirms: "Yes, I have been selected, although not yet formally adopted. I am very excited. Cheltenham is a beautiful place." Indeed it is, although it is hardly noted for a large ethnic minority population.

The son of a Warwickshire professional cricketer, Taylor did his legal training in the chambers of that noted socialist John Mortimer. One episode of *Rumpole* features a black pupil whom Taylor has long suspected was based on him. Not so, says Mortimer. Taylor later went on to his own

chambers in Birmingham, his home town, where he found his colleagues more politically sympathetic. The adjoining office was occupied by Kenneth Clarke.

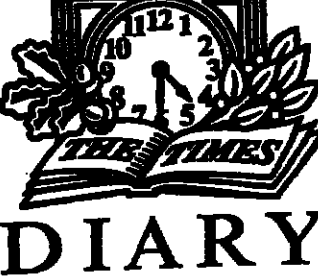
So impressed is Norman Tebbit that he predicts Taylor will be Britain's first black cabinet minister. The prediction should be taken seriously, for Tebbit is currently claiming some success in picking winners. It was he, in 1987, who first tipped John Major for Number Ten.

Political history was rewritten at Walthamstow greyhound track on Thursday night. Super Maggie romped home at 9-2 while Premier Major was four lengths adrift in third place.

Top of the pole

Who says John Major is grey and boring? He may have acted with considerable solemnity when he won the Tory leadership, but self-restraint was not obvious when he first won a seat on Lambeth council in 1968. His long-time friend Peter Golds, who introduced Major to his wife, Norma, and was at Downing Street for the celebration party on Tuesday night, recalls: "We were in the Brixton Road at about 2am when John climbed a lamp-post and started throwing stones at the window of the elderly lady who had run his election campaign. He was desperate to tell her about his victory and was yelling, 'We've won, we've won' when a policeman came around the corner and spotted him."

Golds and other local Tories had a difficult time explaining that the man waving from the lamp-post was the newly elected representative of the law and order party.



Matilda transported

Our cricketers may be on the way to losing the Ashes, but English pride could be restored by stealing back something the Australians regard as even more valuable: that unofficial antipodean anthem, "Waltzing Matilda". Citizens of Rochester claim that the tune is actually a 200-year-old Kentish folksong.

Australian historians insist that the words were composed in Queensland by Banjo Patterson in 1895, and credit his sister with the tune. But Midway councillor Tom Mason, a former mayor of Rochester, says his research proves that the tune was around at least a century earlier.

"It's called 'The Bold Fusilier' and was originally played by the Duke of Marlborough's soldiers in the 18th century to recruit troops for his Low Countries campaign," says Mason, who has recorded what he believes is the original version of the song for charity. Historians in Kent believe that convicts in the hulks along the Medway, awaiting transportation to Australia, heard the song and took the tune with them.

The claim, naturally, has infuriated patriotic Australians. Phil Harrison of the Australian High Commission in London concedes

that there is another theory, that the tune was originally an old Scottish folksong called "Our Bonny Wood of Craigielea". That claim Australians find less offensive. After all, they don't play the Scots at cricket.

Rising soon

Journalists in the Gulf are, no doubt, all intrepid fellows but even their courage trails behind that of Toyohiro Akiyama, about to become what the Japanese are proudly calling the world's first "cosmo-reporter".

Akiyama takes off from Baikonur cosmodrome in central Asia tomorrow to become the first



journalist in space. Japan's largest television network, the Tokyo Broadcasting System, has paid the Soviets £5 million for the privilege and plans "blanket coverage" of the flight to the Mir space station and back. Quite how it will fill the hours of airtime is something of a mystery, for, despite the hefty ticket price, TBS will be allowed only one ten-minute live transmission per day. For the rest,

WITHDRAW OR FIGHT

President Bush yesterday pressed home the diplomatic advantage given him by America's victory at the United Nations by inviting Iraq's foreign minister, Tariq Aziz, to Washington and offering to send his secretary of state, James Baker, to Baghdad. Mr Bush made plain that nothing in Iraq's conduct encouraged optimism but that he was ready to "go the extra mile" to avoid a war. He has done so though this meant modifying America's previous stance that President Saddam Hussein must withdraw from Kuwait before talks took place.

There is clearly a danger in this. Saddam might interpret Bush's initiative as a sign of weakness, and of an ultimate unwillingness to resort to force. If he does, he will be gravely mistaken.

Saddam is dealing with the most powerful coalition ever mustered in peacetime. United Nations resolution 687 strongly reinforces the international legal basis for military action if Iraq fails to withdraw from Kuwait by January 15. Its passage is a triumph for American diplomacy, made possible by the Bush administration's diplomatic odyssey of recent weeks and the stress Washington has placed since August 2 on co-operation between the super-powers. In the sternest ultimatum ever issued by the United Nations, Saddam has been given a straight choice: accept the inevitability of withdrawal or fight. He should now accept that the poker game is ending, and bow to the inevitable.

The security council's decision is less the first fruit of the new diplomacy of collective security than a tribute to the vitality of old-fashioned realpolitik. The Americans have employed carrots and sticks as necessary with council members to secure a united front.

Realpolitik will also dictate Iraq's ultimate decision. Iraq's confidence is not just bluster. Saddam knows that, while President Bush has now secured his international diplomatic flank, the domestic front is far from quiet.

The long interval between the first dispatch of American forces last August and the setting of the January deadline has allowed apprehension to mount. There is not yet an anti-war movement on the scale of the Vietnam years.

Recruitment to the armed forces has fallen to nearly a third of the norm and some GIs have told reporters that they joined the army to go free to college, not to fight a war. But most of the grumbling in the ranks is about boredom, army rations, the prohibition on alcohol in Saudi Arabia and plain homesickness — standard grouches from troops far from home.

That said, a national debate has begun. Doubts about the wisdom of waging a costly war in the Gulf, while not epidemic, are spreading through the churches, the campuses and the towns. A few weeks ago, many of these doubts could have been attributed to Mr Bush's failure coherently to articulate American war aims. In recent weeks, he has made good that omission. Americans now know why their troops are in the Gulf. But many Americans remain unconvinced that the cause, however just, is worth the sacrifice of American lives. The new talks should help, for if they do not lead to peace, then surely Americans will realise that they are dealing with a man who will not bow to reason.

Mr Bush's troubles have grown through his need to cement an international coalition in the Gulf. Congress is grumbling that American public opinion has been left out of the Administration's calculations. So far, Mr Bush has resisted the advice of leading Republican senators to recall Congress for a special debate, fearing that half-hearted support would undercut the impact on Iraq of America's accelerated military buildup and the UN vote.

The risk is genuine. Senior Democrats such as Senators Edward Kennedy and Sam Nunn are demanding that sanctions be given 12-18 months to work and are summoning to senate hearings a parade of witnesses who agree. Senator Nunn says military action is justified but asks, is it wise? The answer must be that it is. Saddam will not be deceived by a show of force and will certainly not withdraw unless he is convinced that he will be militarily defeated. His destruction is a vital interest. This is the view not only of the United States but of the Soviet Union and the rest of the world. If America does not pursue the course it has set, American credibility will be lost forever.

EUROPEAN EMPIRICISM

At the height of the quarrel over the European Community budget in 1984, Mrs Thatcher arrived at the Fontainebleau summit with a peace offering. Called "Europe — the Future", the document took a robustly constructive view of the EC's future. It successfully put on the agenda the revival of the stalled attempt to create a true single market. John Major's government has now embarked on the writing of its sequel.

Lodged only in the House of Commons library, the Thatcher manifesto made no public impact. If Mr Major and Mr Hurd intend to accentuate the positive with their new European prospectus they had better learn from that lesson. Mr Major may intend to be more diplomatic than his predecessor, but he must still speak clearly at next month's conferences in Rome on monetary and political union.

Even if Mr Major delivers the news more courteously than Mrs Thatcher, he must repeat that British governments do not sign up to commitments they have no intention of fulfilling. The country's interests do not at present include a single currency in Europe. If a better balance is to be found between national economic policy and monetary stability in an integrating European market, empirically tested steps are the only way. When the endgame envisaged by the Delors report — monetary union — is reached, Britain may yet be forced to make an unpalatable choice between economic disadvantage outside or loss of autonomy inside. But for now, the government must try to force open as many options as possible.

Our progress in Europe will be easier, conventional wisdom runs, with Mrs Thatcher out of the way. Remove that obstruction and we can swim with the European tide, sorting out the problems as they arise. This would be a disastrously hazy prescription. The Thatcher style was indeed tactless. But a real division exists in Britain over how far any government should make commitments to pan-European authorities. The fault line runs down the

middle of the Conservative and Labour parties. It splits the country as a whole.

On monetary union, the pressure in Rome will be to agree a final destination before any haggling about how to get there. To monetary union, Britain is already committed. Even a solemn commitment to a single currency could allow — as any British minister may honourably argue — for the possibility that a parallel extra currency, such as the hard eco, might evolve into that single currency. British policy is open-ended; so, too, should be the debate about routes and timetables. Britain could, by acknowledging the likelihood that economic convergence will lead to a single currency, make the most of its more empirical approach.

Making decisions at the lowest appropriate level of government, according to the principle of subsidiarity, looks likely to be the best way of reversing the centripetal tendencies of the community's machinery. The key is the appointment of the referee: who decides exactly how the decision-making is distributed between region, state and European Community? A strong EC requires streamlined co-operation between the principal political units of today, the nation states. The referee should therefore be the national governments in the Council of Ministers. This pivotal allocation of powers needs unanimity and cannot be achieved with majority votes. Scrutiny of the workings of the European Commission and ministers by parliaments, both national and European, can be improved. But power of decision should not shift to the centre.

The abstractions of a single currency will be dwarfed by the problems with which Europe will probably have to struggle next year: protectionism, refugees, ethnic disputes and possible catastrophe in the Soviet Union. Against this background, making good the original commitments to free the movement of people, capital and goods throughout the Community will be hard. To be strong enough to cope with these pressures, Europe has to be large and open. Britain is still the strongest voice proclaiming that compelling vision.

CHANGE IN THE AIR

First John Major selects no woman for his cabinet. Then, far worse, *Woman's Hour*, star in the galaxy of public service broadcasting in Britain, is to be summarily dispatched after 44 years on the air. Was it for this Margaret Thatcher fought male chauvinism for 15 years? Radio 4 is Britain's only national speech-based radio channel. From next autumn, it will be joined by a commercial rival and the prospect seems to have caused one of the BBC's periodic failures of nerve. The corporation has embarked on a series of programme changes apparently designed to make its output not more different from what is likely to be supplied by the free market, but a competitive mirror image of it.

Radio, as Marshall McLuhan said, is the hot medium, television the cold. Radio engages the intellect, rather than the senses. Public service radio is highly sensitive and should be tampered with at peril. Broadcasting executives are fixated by ratings and competition — whether or not they receive public subsidy — and seem professionally reluctant to leave well alone.

The corporation says that the proposed change has been researched, and that in the Radio 4 audience there is an appetite for speech radio programmes which can be dipped into, rather than listened to in full. It is a bit late, rather than too late, to apply to Radio 3. But concept they have yet to apply to Radio 3. But the essence of BBC radio has always been a determination to talk up to its audience, not down. Lovers of *Woman's Hour* are now to

paper which passes for modern "chat" radio. The new will produce the broadcasting equivalent of junk food, designed for nibblers.

Change can be achieved painlessly. *Woman's Hour* has subtly moved from its original mix of yarns, home tips and beauty to more sophisticated features. The daily and omnibus editions of *The Archers* were ingeniously rescheduled. The *Today* programme has evolved from a ponderous pre-recorded compilation of news stories to set a high standard of seriousness leavened with real wit.

Such successes are rare alongside the BBC's history of bungled revamps. Remember when Radio 4 became Radio 4UK? Or when a signature tune, and pre-news jingles were inserted into *Today*? Or when the news was sliced from the start of *The World at One*, sending ratings plunging? Or when whole mornings were swallowed up by the Radio 4 "Rollercoaster", offering the same pick'n'mix levity formula programming the BBC is now suggesting for Radio 4 on FM? Listeners forced the BBC to drop such schemes, to allow serious producers to give listeners a standard they had come to expect for their licence money.

Woman's Hour must survive. The changes must be reversed: perhaps by a mass switch-off on the part of disgruntled licence payers, followed by a march to Broadcasting House and if necessary a ritual burning of the *Radio Times*. BBC planners will have to learn that there are programmes which are bigger than they, programmes of which they are not

Restoring ties with Syria

From Mrs Jillian Becker

The Foreign Office would have us believe that it is suddenly not only necessary that Britain restore diplomatic relations with Syria, it is also moral. Both the necessity and the morality need to be questioned.

The reason we broke off relations with Syria was that an agent of Syrian intelligence tried to get a bomb on board a plane at Heathrow airport. Both the guilt of the bomber and the fact that he acted under Syrian auspices were fully proved in court. Yet now we are told there is so much doubt about the Syrian connection that we may as well regard it as not having existed.

We are also told that Syria — in the words of the foreign secretary — "rejects international terrorism". It is difficult to understand what this means. Damascus is the headquarters of a number of groups which exist to carry out acts of international terrorism, and they are not merely tolerated but actively supported by President Assad. There is a very long list of terrorist deeds carried out in Western Europe by Syrian-backed terrorist groups.

To underline the morality of our resuming normal relations with Syria, the Foreign Office contends that, if we do, Syria will try to effect the release of the British hostages held in Lebanon. But the hostages are held by groups over which Syria has no influence whatsoever. For instance, the group which holds most of them is Hezbollah, which responds not to the Syrian but the Iranian authorities.

Apparently we are to make friends to reward Assad for joining President Bush's international military alliance against Saddam Hussein. But so old, deep and steady is Assad's hatred of Saddam Hussein that Syria is the one Middle Eastern state on which we may safely depend never to come to his aid, but rather to do anything it can, unprompted, unbidden, and with fierce enthusiasm, to bring about his downfall.

Yours faithfully,
JILLIAN BECKER
(Director, Institute for the Study of Terrorism, 1986-9),
11 Lampard House,
8 Maida Avenue, W2,
Richmond, Surrey.
November 29.

From Sir Richard Dobson
Sir, It was, I suppose, by a macabre coincidence that on the same evening (November 28) we should have been informed by BBC television, first (news) that it had been decided that we should resume friendly, or at least diplomatic, relations with the Syrian government and secondly (Prisoners of Conscience) that that same government continues to arrest, torture and imprison indefinitely "thousands" of political dissidents, including family members and friends held to be guilty only by association.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD DOBSON,
16 Marchmont Road,
Richmond, Surrey.
November 29.

Giving to charity

From Mr W. K. Duncan

Sir, The government should be more active in promoting the "give as you earn" scheme for charities (letters, November 28). The paymaster-general's office pays 1.55 million public service pensioners, many of whom are benefiting this year from independent taxation, and might be willing to give some of the extra cash to charity.

If the PMG sent out deduction forms and only 1 per cent responded that would be 15,500 subscribers.

The government introduced "give as you earn". They have a duty to make it work on their own payroll.

Yours faithfully,
W. K. DUNCAN,
22 Abon Grove,
Dunfermline, Fife.
November 28.

Cost of food

From Mr John Cann

Sir, I am a poultry farmer producing eggs. After reading Mr James Gibson-Watts's letter (November 22) on supermarket and retailer mark-ups I looked at the November 1984 egg prices for sizes 1, 2 and 3, and comparing these with November 1990 figures, the retail price had risen by 32p but the producers are receiving 54p less per dozen.

What conclusions can one draw from this?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN CANN,
Mapanjon, Awilcombe,
Honiton, Devon.

Pimlico passport

From Councillor Peter Bradley

Sir, Shirley Porter's letter (November 28) is economical with the truth to put it mildly. That she should be obliged to quote the Communist party in support of her arguments illustrates amply the desperation of her logic.

She claims that home ownership represents "the first rung on the ladder to independence and capital assets", but she has no message, nor does Westminster City Council make anything like adequate provision, for those who cannot even reach the ladder.

She says that the council's

The Thatcher years in retrospect

From Mr Vladimir Simonov

Sir, Ten years ago she was the "Iron Lady" — now the Kremlin and millions of Soviet people sincerely regret her resignation. The striking changes in the Soviet opinion of Margaret Thatcher as a political leader are a good illustration of what is called the new political thinking.

In fact, Thatcher's original portrait mirrored the USSR's international isolation in the period of confrontation.

Margaret Thatcher was the first Western leader to believe in Soviet perestroika. After her meeting with Gorbachev in 1984, she appreciated the dimensions of his personality. Mrs Thatcher was the most consistent advocate of the thesis of "Soviet reforms in the interest of the West".

Gorbachev's reforms opened for us the way to a new Europe which has just voiced its desire to live according to the laws of interdependence. The Soviet Union is turning from an outpost into a normal country, one of the 34 builders of the all-European home, and was a signatory to its blueprints in Paris.

Today, disintegration processes and the economic and power crises in the USSR cause apprehensions for the future of our country and its leader.

Ordinary Soviet people are very fond of the former British prime minister. Everything concerning Mrs Thatcher evoked tremendous interest among the Soviet people. "Why don't we ever see our leaders doing normal work?", a Moscowite wrote to a newspaper. She had been impressed by a photo of Margaret Thatcher peering her flat.

If the former mistress of the flat at 10 Downing Street wanted to renovate the interior of her house again, a photographer's presence would be desirable. He could make a nice Christmas card for Thatcher's Soviet fans.

Yours faithfully,
VLADIMIR SIMONOV,
Novosti,
4 Zubovski Bulvar,
Moscow, USSR.
November 29.

From Mr Bernard Buckle
Sir, The picture (November 27) of Mr Denis Thatcher, head bowed, carrying a suitcase out of No 10 prompts me to suggest that he is

surely due some sort of public recognition in the prime minister's resignation honours list. He has borne his role in his wife's shadow with great good humour. His support may have a lot to do with the dignity with which she was able to bow out.

Yours faithfully,
BERNARD BUCKLE,
Ingersley, Steephill Road,
Shanklin, Isle of Wight.
November 27.

From Mr Kenneth Stern
Sir, Should Oxford University agree with Mr Humphrey (November 27) and now offer an honorary degree to Mrs Thatcher, I hope that she would reject it with the contempt that it would deserve.

Yours faithfully,
KENNETH STERN (MA, Oxon),
555 Park West, W2.

From Miss M. E. D. Biggs
Sir, What I am sure we shall all miss is the welcome presence of a woman — unfortunately only one — in the chorus line of male performers at the international leaders' conferences. It did seem to balance the thing a bit.

Yours truly,
M. E. D. BIGGS,
Farnaby's, Elgin Road,
Weybridge, Surrey.
November 29.

From Mrs Susan Chambers
Sir, After the political aberrations of recent days one poignant fact will perhaps be remembered. Margaret Thatcher, Britain's first woman prime minister, handed her resignation to the Queen on November 28, the anniversary of the day in 1919 when Nancy Astor became Britain's first woman member of parliament.

Yours faithfully,
SUSAN CHAMBERS,
7 West Ella Way,
Kirk Ella, Hull, Humberside.

From Mr D. J. Marshall-Hasdell
Sir, How envious one is of the tranquil haven of Ambridge. Not a word of debate or even family feud about these great moments of British political history.

I remain, etc.,
DENNIS MARSHALL-HASDELL,
Ynybach, Aberporth,
Cardigan, Dyfed.
November 27.

On the threshold

From Mr Ansel Harris

Sir, There has been no dissent from the conclusion reached in the plethora of education and training white papers and reports over the last ten years from the following proposition: there is a positive correlation between the low proportion of young people staying in full or part-time education after the age of 16, and the poor performance of our economy compared with that of our competitors.

In Japan, for example, as the 1985 white paper *Education and Training for Young People* re-

minded us, "95 per cent of all young people remain in full-time education until the age of 19 or 20".

It is not unfortunate that after all the efforts of government, the CBI, the Royal Society of Arts and others to improve the attitudes to and perceptions of further and higher education, that the person just selected for the highest office in this country should have left school at 16?

Yours faithfully,
ANSEL HARRIS
(Chairman of Governors),
Kilburn College,
Priory Park Road,
Kilburn NW6.

Lenient sentences

From Mr Anthony

Heaton-Armstrong
Sir, The furore that greeted the Melton Mowbray magistrates' court's decision (report, November 21) not to sentence to immediate imprisonment for his twelfth drink-driving offence a man who had also been driving a car taken without the owner's consent at a time when he was under disqualification for his 11th drink-driving conviction, coupled with the inability of the higher courts to do anything about it, illustrate the absurdity of the government's decision to restrict the attorney-general's power to refer "over-lenient" sentences to the Court of Appeal for an increase to the most serious offences such as rape, robbery and murder which are triable on indictment only in the crown court.

Section 36 of the 1988 Criminal Justice Act, which imposes the restriction, presupposes that magistrates are more likely to sentence correctly than judges in the crown court. The high proportion of successful appeals to the crown court against magistrates' sen-

tences argued to be too severe suggests that this is not the case.

In the same edition, you quote the home secretary as calling for consistency in sentencing. The need for sentences to be consistent must be equally great across the board. The parents of a child paralysed by a car when its driver, with excess alcohol in his blood, has driven carelessly, or the children whose aged parents have had their home ransacked in a burglary, are surely as much entitled to feel that an unduly lenient sentence on the offender is capable of being increased on appeal as is a rape or robbery victim.

Why should a criminal with a persuasive lawyer be seen to "get away with it" simply because his offences can be tried in the magistrates' court? The government should extend the power to refer "over-lenient" sentences to higher courts for increase to all criminal offences.

Yours etc.,
ANTHONY HEATON-ARMSTRONG,
Garick Club,
Garick Street, WC2.
November 21.

Poll tax and the vote

From Mr Bernard Metcalf

Sir, It is surprising that Greville Janner, MP, as a QC, should misrepresent the Home Office guidelines on poll tax and the electoral register (November 17). The Home Office circular refers only to those who fail to return their electoral roll registration forms. If such people also fail to register for community charge, they may be deleted from the electoral roll, and why should they

not be? The simple remedy is in their own hands.

Of course the electoral roll is a public document and no doubt the community charge registration officer is as capable of consulting it as anyone else, but it is not true that failure to register for community charge alone may result in loss of right to vote.

Yours,
B. W. METCALF,
Mill House, Stone Allerton,
Aixbridge, Somerset.
November 21.

about class. It was about the importance of retaining public housing for people on low incomes at a time when homelessness in London has reached crisis levels.

It says a lot about Lady Porter's political priorities that while she is insisting on cuts in home help services to vulnerable people in order to keep Westminster's poll tax down, she is prepared to waste a great deal of public money in a futile attempt to score a cheap political point in the High Court.

Yours faithfully,
PETER BRADLEY (Deputy Leader of the Opposition),
Westminster City Council,
PO Box 240

Twyford Down reversal sought

From the Dean of Winchester

Sir, We write, as individuals and representatives of groups closely involved with Winchester and its surrounding countryside, to express our dismay that the Department of Transport still plans a cutting through Twyford Down.

We do not dispute the need for an M3 link past Winchester. However, instead of the city paying the cost of its environmental damage, this cost should be defrayed across the nation through taxation to pay for a less damaging scheme. A tunnel, for example, would be feasible, affordable and environmentally acceptable.

We also strongly oppose the government's proposal to extend the M3 west of Twyford Down on a high-level embankment across the Itchen valley, rising to cross over the railway line. The fine villages of Twyford, Shawford and Compton, which form the setting for the jewel of the city itself, would be the casualties of this scheme; their residents exposed to visual intrusion and noise, which our preferred low-level route — including "cut and cover" at Compton — would quite inexpensively avoid. Sixteen hundred signatures were collected in four hours on November 17 in Winchester High Street, on a petition supporting the low-level route, including a tunnel.

In 1985 Winchester College purchased Twyford Down for a nominal sum from two of its own masters, who had acquired the down to protect it from development. We therefore urge Winchester College to contest its compulsory purchase for such a devastating scheme.

The intervention of the European Commission is currently being sought, pursuant to the environmental impact assessment directive of 1985. However, we would most welcome a change of heart by our government; a change of heart which would respect the five statutory designations of protection for the area and save the cherished countryside which adorns England's ancient capital.

Yours faithfully,
TREVOR BEESON,
Dean of Winchester,
PAMELA PESKETT
(Mayor of Winchester),
C. M. CORCORAN
(Chairman, Twyford Parish Council),
GEO. BECKETT
(Chairman, Compton and Shawford Parish Council),
MARTIN BIDDLE
(President, Twyford Down Association),
The Deanery,
Winchester, Hampshire.

Waxham Great Barn

From the Chairman of English Heritage

Sir, Prince Charles's support for the preservation of redundant barns and other farm buildings, particularly in a way which protects their special historic and architectural quality (report, November 30) is timely and welcome. English Heritage has become increasingly concerned about the threat to historic barns from redundancy and consequent neglect by owners. We have committed substantial resources over the last few years, through grants, guidelines and advice to owners and local authorities, to secure this vital part of our country's landscape.

Prince Charles's reported comments that we failed to intervene in the case of Waxham Great Barn are distressing. Together with Norfolk County Council we have for many years been attempting to secure the future of this nationally important barn. Money and professional advice have been offered to the owners, but to no avail.

More recently, English Heritage has provided funds for emergency repairs and for the compulsory purchase of the barn by Norfolk County Council. We have promised around £140,000 towards full repair and we expect work to begin next spring.

Yours faithfully,
MONTAGU DE BEAULIEU,
Chairman, English Heritage,
23 Savile Row, W1.

Playing our tune

From Mr R. Carne

Sir, The letters from Mr Magrill (November 27) and Mrs Jacobs (November 28) on telephone waiting music reminded me that whilst awaiting a car salesman to discuss delivery of my new car, I realised I was listening to "The Sting".

Yours faithfully,
R. CARNE,
71 Hanworth Road,
Hampton, Middlesex.

From Mr R. F. Copcutt
Sir, Our medical group practice at Rickmansworth very early on adopted music for telephone callers holding on. But I was more than a little disconcerted by their offering, "Thine be the Glory", a hymn chosen both by my wife and me for our funerals.

Yours sincerely,
R. F. COPCUTT,
Lapstones, 27 Little Britain,
Waddesdon, Aylesbury,
Buckinghamshire.

From Mr David Linton
Sir, I recently telephoned a firm of contractors to complain. After I had been put on hold, and had listened to "Home on the Range", they firmly denied that they were a bunch of cowboys.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

November 30: The Queen held a Council at 9.45 a.m.

There were present the Right Hon. John Major M.P. (Prime Minister), the Right Hon. John MacGregor M.P. (Lord President), the Right Hon. Michael Heseltine M.P., the Right Hon. Kenneth Baker M.P., the Right Hon. Malcolm Rifkind M.P., the Right Hon. Norman Lamont M.P., the Right Hon. David Waddington M.P. and the Right Hon. Christopher Patten M.P.

Mr. Ian Lang M.P. and Mr. Richard Ryder M.P. were sworn in Members of Her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council.

At the Council the Right Hon. John Major M.P. was sworn First Lord of the Treasury and Minister for the Civil Service and kissed hands on appointment.

The Right Hon. David Waddington M.P. received the Seal of Office of the Lord Privy Seal, took the Oath of Office and kissed hands on appointment.

The following received the Seals of Office, took the Oath of Office and kissed hands on appointment: the Right Hon. Kenneth Baker M.P. (as Secretary of State for the Home Department), the Right Hon. Ian Lang M.P. (as Secretary of State for Scotland), the Right Hon. Michael Heseltine M.P. (as Secretary of State for the Environment), the Right Hon. Malcolm Rifkind M.P. (as Secretary of State for Transport) and the Right Hon. Norman Lamont M.P. (as Chancellor of the Exchequer).

Mr. Geoffrey de Denby was in attendance as Clerk of the Council.

Before the Council the Right Hon. John MacGregor M.P. had an audience of Her Majesty and received the Seals of Office of Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, took the Oath of Office and kissed hands on appointment.

The Queen arrived at Huddersfield Railway Station this morning and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for West Yorkshire (the Lord Ingworth).

Her Majesty subsequently drove to the Headquarters of the

British Amateur Rugby League

Association and was received by the Mayor of Kirkcaldy (Councillor T. O'Donovan) and Mr. P. Knight (President of the Association).

Having toured the new Headquarters, the Queen honoured Mr. Knight with her presence at lunch, and afterwards unveiled a commemorative plaque to open the Headquarters.

In the afternoon Her Majesty visited Huddersfield Sports Centre (Mr. A. Bishop, Manager) and unveiled a commemorative plaque.

The Queen afterwards visited Clarendon Retirement Home, escorted by Miss R. Flexney (Service Manager), and unveiled a commemorative plaque.

The Lady Elton, Sir Kenneth Scott, Mr. Charles Anson and Lieutenant-Colonel Blair Stewart-Wilson were in attendance.

By command of The Queen, the Lord Reay (Lord in Waiting) was at Heathrow Airport, London this morning upon the departure of the Governor-General of New Zealand and bade farewell on behalf of Her Majesty.

KENSINGTON PALACE November 30: The Prince of Wales, Patron, Atlantic Salmon Trust, attended the Atlantic Salmon Trust/Institute of Fisheries Management/Linnæan Society Joint Conference on the strategies for the Rehabilitation of Salmon Rivers, at the Linnæan Society, Burlington House, W1.

Commander Richard Aylard RN was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE November 30: The Duke of Gloucester this morning opened 1-37 Navarino Mansions of the Industrial Dwellings Society (1885) Limited, Dalston Road, N16.

Major Nicholas Barne was in attendance.

Her Royal Highness Princess Eugenie of York will be baptised by the Bishop of Norwich at the Anglican Church during Morning Service on Sunday 23rd December, 1990.

The godparents chosen by the Duke and Duchess of York will be Mr. James Ogilvy, Captain Alastair Ross, Royal Navy, Mrs. Ronald Ferguson, Mrs. Patrick Dodd-Noble and Miss Louise Blacker.

Royal engagements

TODAY: The Queen will open the Blyden Bridge and Viaduct, Tyne and Wear, at 11; and will launch the Royal Research Ship James Clark Ross at the Swan Hunter Shipyard, Wallsend, at 1.20.

TOMORROW: Princess Margaret will attend a gala concert at the Royal Albert Hall at 6.50 to mark the 80th birthday of Dame Alicia Markova, and in aid of the Dance Teachers Benevolent Fund. The Duchess of Gloucester will also attend.

Birthdays

TODAY: Mr. Woody Allen, actor and director, 55; Mr. Gordon Croose, composer, 53; Mr. Mike Denness, cricketer, 50; Miss Eve Evdokimova, prima ballerina assoluta, 42; Lord Glenconner, 64; Dame Alicia Markova, prima ballerina assoluta, 80; Mr. Keith Michell, actor, 62; Miss Betty Miller, singer and actress, 45; Sir William Pile, civil servant, 71; Stephen Polakoff, playwright, 38; Mr. Richard Pryor, actor, 50; Major-General Sir Desmond Ridsdale, civil servant, 77; Mr. Andy Ripley, rugby player,

43; Lord Roll of Ipsden, 83; Mr. G.D. Squibb, QC, Norfolk Herald Extraordinary, 84; Mr. Lee Trevino, golfer, 51; Baroness Willoughby de Eresby, 56.

TOMORROW: The Earl of Arundel and Surrey, 34; Mr. Maurice Bathurst, QC, 77; Sir Frederic Bennett, former MP, 72; the Hon. Nigel Calder, science writer, 59; Mr. Tony Coe, chief constable, Suffolk, 49; Professor Sir Alan Cooke, master, Selwyn College, Cambridge, 68; Sir Frank Cooper, civil servant and company chairman, 68; Sir David Davies, former chairman, Welsh Development Agency, 81; Sir Walter Edmonson, shipowner, 88; Mr. Ian Finlay, former director, Royal Scottish Museum, 84; Sir Paul Grey, diplomat, 82; General Alexander Haig, former American Secretary of State, 66; Air Chief Marshal Sir Peter Harding, 70; Mr. Anthony Hawley, author, 70; Dr. Gwyn Jones, Welsh Development Agency, 42; Sir George Lambouche, diplomat, 85; Mr. Roy Moss, chairman and chief executive, Allied Breweries, 61; Dame Wilhelmina Pauline, former president, Royal College of Nursing, 80; Sir Evelyn Russell, former chief Metropolitan stipendiary magistrate, 78; Dr. C.D. Williams, paediatrician, 97; Viscount Wimbome, 51.

Study sheds new light on megalith builders

By NORMAN HAMMOND, ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

MEGALITHS, the great stone monuments of which Stonehenge and Avebury are Britain's best-known examples, have long been associated with the early farming communities of the neolithic period.

However, a new theory links them to the indigenous mesolithic peoples, suggesting that megalithic architecture is a response to the impact of the first farmers on fishing and gathering peoples along the coastal fringes of northern Europe.

Dr. Andrew Sherratt of Oxford University has divided the development of megalithic burial monuments into two periods, the earlier of which, between 4500 and 3500 BC, he discusses in the current issue of *World Archaeology*. At this period the great stone circles such as Avebury and Stonehenge were not yet constructed, and Dr. Sherratt places these in a "neo-megalithic" period ending as late as 2000 BC.

He says that as early farming villages spread north and west from the Mediterranean into France, the British Isles, and southern Scandinavia, substantial villages and monumental funerary architecture have a mutually exclusive distribution. In areas where early settlements were instead dispersed, "the element of permanence seems to have been provided by monumental tombs and enclosures".

Such monuments were made necessary, he believes, by the social reorganisation that turned hunting and foraging communities into live-

stock and cereal farmers with an investment in land and produce, and hence in the labour force provided by a stable society with co-operation reinforced by family ties.

The megalithic tombs were "the ritual mark of common descent, the surrogate for the living village," Dr. Sherratt says.

Such tombs often served many generations of a family, but the interesting thing is that their adoption was in areas "already fairly densely occupied by mesolithic groups who adopted neolithic horticulture but did not take over the village-based settlement pattern", he says.

The tombs were "hollow houses of the dead", as an earlier author described them, and their form owes something to the longhouses of the early farmers' villages; thus the first tombs were long mounds over a timber or stone chamber buried forever, while the mesolithic derivation from them was a stone chamber with a passage allowing access, and thus reuse.

Source: *World Archaeology* 22: 147-167.

Christening

The infant daughter of Mr and Mrs David Vaughan was christened Katharine Aurora Mohun-Harris by the Rev Canon Joseph Robinson at the Temple Church, the Temple, London, ECA, on Sunday, November 25, 1990. The godparents are The Hon. Antony Lewis (for whom the Rev William Fryer stood proxy), Mr Jonathan Harris, Mr Adam Irwin, Mrs Julian Cazeaux, Mrs Nicholas Pearson and Mrs William Shand.

Roman find

A metal detector enthusiast has discovered a forgotten Roman settlement in Gloucestershire. Norman Welby, of Littledean, has identified a Roman industrial complex on the outskirts of a mile long on the outskirts of Gloucester. Eight smelting plants are thought to have existed in the area.

OBITUARIES

PROFESSOR TIM McELWAIN

Professor Timothy John McElwain, cancer physician, died suddenly in London on November 26, aged 53. He was born in New Zealand on April 22, 1937.

TIM McElwain was a major international figure in cancer research as well as one of the foremost specialists on the subject in Britain. His breadth of knowledge in his field was unrivalled, spanning both adult and childhood cancers.

In the early 1970s cancer medicine was a Cinderella specialty and in the process of inventing itself, as he would have put it. Its leading figure at the time was Gordon Hamilton-Fairley, with whom he trained. When Hamilton-Fairley was killed, McElwain took over the leadership in the field and more than anyone built up the speciality throughout the United Kingdom. Some years ago he was a founder member of the Association of Cancer Physicians and was the inevitable choice as its first chairman.

Mac, to all his friends and colleagues, was educated in Australia and in London. His medical training was at Bart's, the Royal Postgraduate Medical School and the Great Ormond Street Hospital for Sick Children, and in 1972 he was appointed consultant at the Royal Marsden Hospital, where he was to establish his reputation. Later at the Royal Marsden and the associated Institute of Cancer Research he was appointed Cancer Research Campaign professor of medical oncology. There he built up a large and effective section of medicine almost from scratch.

His own range of research interests was wide. In his early years he was at the forefront of developments in chemotherapy that led to dramatic improvements in cure for Hodgkin's disease, testicular cancers and cancers of childhood. At a time when cancer was often more unpleasant than the disease itself, he developed a new low toxicity outpatient treatment which has now become a standard therapy. He pioneered the use of high dose chemotherapy with bone marrow rescue to try to achieve more effective cancer treatment. This became a great challenge for him.

At first results were disappointing. McElwain said he had developed a treatment looking for a disease. But he showed his strength of purpose by carrying on where others might have become discouraged. Today high dose chemotherapy has made a



major impact in the treatment of myeloma, the commonest cancer of the blood, and is being widely investigated throughout the world against other cancers.

In addition to his clinical work, he was a member of numerous national and international bodies associated with cancer research and sat on the editorial board of several specialist journals. His skills as a committee man made him much in demand. Two in particular illustrate his range of interests. Recently he was appointed a member of the Medical Research Council and he was also a senior member of BACUP, a help and information group for both patients with cancer and their relatives.

Mac was a big man in every sense, larger than life, a natural leader and one with immense presence. When he entered a room people noticed; when he spoke they listened. Even in his student days at Bart's it was not unknown for him to be mistaken for a consultant. With

his strong personality he combined the qualities of common sense and clarity of thought. In conversation and in writing he was fluent, succinct and with a devastating turn of phrase when required. This could well have been a reflection of his father who was a journalist.

This articulacy contributed to his qualities as a teacher. He loved teaching and he trained and inspired a generation of young cancer physicians throughout the UK and the Commonwealth. He taught knowledgeably, enthusiastically and most of all he taught by example. As a bedside doctor he was simply the best, honest, compassionate and touchingly gentle. To a new junior doctor he could be a formidable figure at first; he set high standards and when he came across inefficiency he could be quick to flare, with spectacular effect. But he was equally quick to forgive, and for all his stature he was the most approachable of men.

The most junior and most senior of his colleagues were

treated in the same way, as equals with respect and informality. He was interested in them all, he loved to talk with them over a beer, and he remembered them. This explains the extraordinary affection so many young doctors had for such a senior figure. Everyone knew Mac, and Mac knew everyone.

Socially he was expansive and generous, witty and wonderfully entertaining. One of his (true) stories began "the first time I was in a plane crash". An evening wining and dining with Mac could be a memorable event, and he took particular pride in sparkling the following morning when all around were grey. But behind this larger than life personality was a sensitive man, striving perhaps sometimes too hard to sustain the highest standards he set for himself. To the Marsden and the Institute of Cancer Research his death marks the end of an era.

He is survived by his wife Glennis and his parents.

involved. Rosenberg's work was completed two weeks before his death and I understand the book will be published in 1991.

Richard Cork adds:

A TRANSMISSION error made the words of the second paragraph of my tribute (November 28) read like my own. They were those of Eugene Rosenberg's close friend, the sculptor F. E. McWilliam.

EUGENE ROSENBERG

Sir Norman Reid writes:

TO SAY that Eugene Rosenberg (Obituary, November 22) was "a total invalid" during the last years of his life is perhaps misleading. During his retirement Rosenberg collected an impressive archive of material on post-war art in architecture in Great Britain and over the past five years—in spite of serious handicaps—he was able to put together material for a publication in which I have had some

involvement. Rosenberg's work was completed two weeks before his death and I understand the book will be published in 1991.

Richard Cork adds:

A TRANSMISSION error made the words of the second paragraph of my tribute (November 28) read like my own. They were those of Eugene Rosenberg's close friend, the sculptor F. E. McWilliam.

Church services tomorrow

Advent Sunday

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8.30 A.M. Evensong. 10.30 A.M. Morning Service. 1.30 P.M. Evensong. 7.30 P.M. Choral Evensong.

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Originals: Anne Renfrew, beekeeper

Shedding light on a hive of industry

HUGH ROUTLEDGE



Getting the buzz: Anne Renfrew and samples of her beeswax candles

KEEPING two and a quarter million bees means pots of honey; it can also mean getting left with too much beeswax. Anne Renfrew, a farmer's wife, started making beeswax candles and blocks of beeswax for other uses, in addition to honey, after discovering that bees can produce 1lb of wax for every 10lb-20lb of honey.

Most beekeepers return wax to the bees to build up their combs, but only 25 per cent of the wax is needed for this process.

Because she is allergic to stings, Mrs Renfrew leaves the beekeeping proper to be done at a safe distance on their 475-acre Warwickshire farm by her husband, Richard, who studied beekeeping during his course at an agricultural college in the Sixties.

The Renfrews lost their first stock of bees during a severe winter but decided to replace them on a larger scale to pollinate their fields of beans and rape.

The couple teamed up with neighbours and fellow beekeeping enthusiasts to form a co-operative, marketing honey and beeswax products. Seeing the light in candle-making, however, takes time.

"As with any craft project there was a great deal of trial and error," Mrs Renfrew says. She was baffled by the first candle moulds they tried which had an impenetrable thirst for liquid wax.

The problem lay in leakage through the wick hole at the bottom of the mould. Now, once the wicks have been threaded through, a form of Plasticine plug, plus a clamp, provides the solution. Another problem was ensuring that the wicks remained upright.

Beeswax is scraped from the combs at the same time the honey is taken from the bees, who are now receiving a winter substitute feed of syrup made from sugar. After washing the wax, best done in rainwater or icewater, melting is the next step. No special equipment is required but the job has to be done slowly, and regular straining is essential, a labour-intensive process lasting several days.

"Beeswax has the highest melting point of any animal wax, melting at between 144F and 148F," Mrs Renfrew says. Constant skimming and straining is necessary because of the inevitable detritus of bees' legs and wings. The beeswax is then poured into moulds and cooled in water baths.

The group is now producing hand-carved moulds in the shape of old-fashioned spiral bee skeps. Other candle moulds are in traditional shapes. The largest candle is 6in high, 2in in diameter, and sells for £3.

Candles in fragile barley sugar twist shapes have to be removed from the moulds with great care. Breakages are consigned to the melting pot.

Final colour variations in mellowed honey tones depend on how many times the wax is reheated and strained. The lighter the colour, the purer the wax tends to be. Wax used from different bees can vary in colour. The bees on the Renfrews' farm are the potentially more aggressive Italian hybrids - good workers - and the more placid New Zealand bees. Colour variations can also arise from the repeated recycling by bees of the wax.

"Some people ask what other colours we make our candles in, but I explain the point of keeping the natural colours," Mrs Renfrew says. "The end result is something essentially pure and wholesome."

"Beeswax candles give the purest light and are long lasting," she adds. "We don't want our candles looking like those made from paraffin wax. The natural beeswax also gives off a delicious smell."

Bars of beeswax are also available to use, for example, on drawer runners to prevent sticking. Needles and thread can be run through tablets of wax to prevent knotting, and the anti-tangle quality of beeswax has also been used on fishing lines. Locomotives kept their pins in beeswax to prevent rusting, and it will also fill cracks in antique furniture. Combined with turpentine, beeswax makes the best furniture polish.

SANDY BISP
Anne Renfrew, New House Farm, Knighton, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire (0293 77236).

A specialist building society is helping to rejuvenate a wilderness in the high Pennines, reports

Lynne Greenwood

The tourist posters describe the high Pennines as "England's last wilderness". Those who live there want to keep it that way. In the villages on Alston Moor, the bleak but beautiful high ground between the Lake District and the North Yorkshire Moors, even crumbling houses are in demand.

The locals claim it must be the last place in England where house prices are still rising. Even "incomers" in the village of Nenthead, with a population of just over 300, are quick to point to a £48,500 price tag on a semi-detached house. "Three years ago, it would have been £10,000 at the most," they say.

Not many houses like this remain unsold. Most are surrounded by scaffolding as people take on the task of renovating them. One builder is busy on six new homes, the first in Nenthead for many years, convinced there is a waiting list for the chance to live in rural England.

In the villages around Alston, the highest market town in England and once a thriving lead mining community, the climate is harsh. Although described as central - almost half-way between Carlisle and Newcastle upon Tyne - it bears no resemblance to the accepted meaning of the estate agents' phrase of "within easy commuting distance". When it snows on Alston Moor, communications cease.

Many who have chosen this area have done so with the help of the Ecology Building Society, which, as its name suggests, applies special criteria before offering mortgages. Bob Lowman, the general manager, says: "I like to say that we lend money only on properties which will save money, conserve resources or preserve communities."

Based in Keighley, West Yorkshire, the society claims a number of patrons in Parliament and one in the House of Lords. "People see us as the green alternative and our investors include a wide range of people," he says. "Only this week an investor opened an account with £70,000."

On the society's next video, its first big step into promotions, Shelagh Fawcett, an incomer, credits the Ecology with helping to rejuvenate Nenthead. "The building society has played a significant part in halting the decline of the village," she says.

Mr Lowman admits that when he first heard that it brought a lump to his throat. "It means what we set out to do is actually working," he says. Ms Fawcett adds: "They have helped people to move into the area who otherwise could not have found the money to renovate some of the semi-detached properties."

She believes this in turn has helped to keep open the 32-pupil Nenthead primary school, which stands at 1,450ft, and given the sub-post office ammunition in its fight to stay open.

Ms Fawcett moved to Nenthead nearly seven years ago when she bought two back-to-back cottages which had stood empty for seven years. "They were just shells, with a roof which had to be replaced," she says. "There was no electricity and no water."

She and her partner, Terry Connor, could afford the £3,000 to buy the property, but needed a mortgage to begin to make the place habitable. "The high street building societies didn't want to

Run on the land bank

NICK GAY



Living in the wilds: Pat Muir, an "incomer" to the Pennines, and her bleakly beautiful renovated cottage

know," she says. "Before they would lend anything, we would have had to put in the mains services, and at least make a kitchen and bathroom. But we needed the money to do that."

The Ecology Building Society, which is preparing to celebrate its tenth anniversary next year, responded immediately. Ms Fawcett's five-year-old son, Rory, is a pupil at Nenthead school, which was threatened with closure two years ago under a Cumbria county council plan to reorganise secondary education. Her younger daughter, Bridie, will join him there.

Peter Lanham, the headmaster, whose four children have attended the school in his 14 years in Nenthead, was grateful to the parents who organised a well-researched and presented campaign to keep the school open, and avoid children having a five-mile bus journey to Alston. He admits the school is the one place in the village where the locals and the incomers, not always welcomed openly by those born and bred in Alston Moor, mix freely.

He says the school is developing a cosmopolitan population, as new people move in. "Historically, the village was an industrial mining community and still retains a flavour of those times," he believes the village also displays a strong sense of concern for other people.

One of the first people on Alston Moor to spread the Ecology word was Sue Warwick, who noticed the society's original offices above a flower shop, as she sat outside in a traffic jam while working as a bus driver in Yorkshire.

Years later, when she founded the Green Ark company, which makes wholefood animal feeds, with Jane Liddell, her partner, she turned to the Ecology for help. The company headquarters, and their home, are in a converted farm-

house down an unmade track beyond Alston Moor golf club. "I remember a bank manager from Carlisle coming out to look at the property when we applied for a loan," Ms Liddell says. "He said our business plan was not convincing; too risky for the bank."

"We wanted to increase our mortgage on the building to put more money into the business, which we saw as being ethical and green. The Ecology agreed to lend us the money immediately."

Now Green Ark's pet food is to be sold nationally under licence and will be available in supermarkets early next year.

Green Ark deliberately supports local services, employing local people when the work load demands and sending almost half a ton of materials through the local post office, rather than using an outside carrier.

Pat Muir, a former teacher from Newcastle upon Tyne, moved to a cottage at Nenthead with the help of the Ecology. Now she is busy selling and planting trees and clearing forests to earn a living. Without the long-term financial help of the Ecology, she says she would not have survived on Alston Moor.

"I needed to do a lot of rebuilding, and the Ecology's atti-

tude to preserving these buildings made it possible for me to do a great deal of the work myself, in my own time, calling on local builders to help when I needed them."

She insulated the floor of her cottage herself, with a layer of old bottles and tin cans. Ms Muir lives alone, and admits life is not always easy at 1,500ft. "Not everything will grow here, so I have to work by trial and error to discover which tree seedlings survive best."

Richard Berry, aged 23, an oil company area manager based in Oxford, had no problem acquiring a conventional mortgage for the former chapel in Nenthead he is renovating in his spare time. He plans to move in when he gets married next year. "We wanted a characterful property; traditional housing and a traditional village lifestyle," says Mr Berry, who plans to rename the property "Heaven's Gate".

As if to prove his aspirations are far from unique, he points to the man living three doors away. "We were good friends at school in Gloucestershire, and parted when we went to different universities," he says. "Soon after I started working on the house, I saw him walk past the door. I couldn't believe it. He moved here a short time ago for the same reasons we did."

Breeding

Kicking the mule myth



Stubborn mule? No, just cautious

A MULE could win the Grand National, given the chance, says Lorraine Travis, the founder of the British Mule Society. "They are excellent jumpers."

The sure-footed animals also have many lesser known attributes: for its size, a mule is 25 per cent stronger than a horse and shows more stamina despite being the butt of jokes about stubbornness. A mule can be either a cross between a male donkey (jack) and a female horse, or a stallion and a female donkey (jenny), the result being a hinny. Male mules are infertile.

They originated in the Middle East and are best bred from good-sized donkeys and small horses. They are in their element where the going is rough and the climate tough, and can survive for long periods without food or water.

Mrs Travis, who owns four mules, founded the British Mule Society in 1978 after acquiring her first mule and failing to find the information about them she required. Now she has written a book about them and, as a result, more people are applying to join the society's 200 members.

A stoic in battle, the mule boasts an impressive pedigree. Buffalo Bill rode one called Mouse, which could out-trot the United States cavalry horses; Alexander the Great's generals rode them; Wellington soldiered with 10,000 of them in the Peninsular War and they were used as an ambulance service in the Crimean War.

However mules may stagger under enormous loads, they are never workshy, Mrs Travis says. "If a mule stops and refuses to go on it's because the way ahead is unsafe. They have an enormous sense of self-preservation."

Mules are much sought after, particularly for carriage driving. Mrs Travis uses the mules on her farm in Derbyshire to help with the haymaking. They also take part in gymkhanas.

The animals can cost the same as a horse to buy, starting at about £900. They are hardy, seldom ill and much cheaper to keep than horses. "They don't need stabling and many do not like cover and will only go inside to eat. Unlike horses they do not need hay or special food."

However, mules may require tethering when they feel an urge for freedom as, Mrs Travis says, "they can go over, under, round or through anything you can devise to stop them. Kicking is a mule's initial form of defence, but you can be sure that if a mule kicks out at you and just misses, then it meant to miss."

S. B.
Lorraine Travis, British Mule Society, Hope Mount Farm, Alstonfield, Derbyshire DE6 2FR (0335 27353). Her book, *The Mule*, is published by J.A. Allen (£10.95).

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Country Events

THIS WEEKEND

● **Peet Weekend:** Quiz, displays, videos, information, children's workshops. *Windrow and Widdows Trust, Arundel, West Sussex (0893 863355).* Today, tomorrow 9.30am-5pm, last entry 4pm, £2.70, child from 90p.

● **Victorian Christmas weekend:** Exhibition, carols, handbell ringers, Father Christmas, mulled wine, roast chestnuts. Today only, a nativity play. *Chiltern Open-Air Museum, Newland Park, near Chalfont St Giles, Buckinghamshire (02407 71117).* Today, tomorrow 11am-5pm.

● **Marwell Winter Wonderland:** Christmas grottos, presents for every child, mulled wine and mince pies, carol singers, handbell ringers, Morris dancers. *Marwell Ecological Park, Colden Common, near Winchester, Hampshire (0962 74407).* Today, tomorrow and every weekend until Christmas. 10am-5pm, £4.75 (pre-booking essential).

NEXT WEEK

● **Fountains concerts:** Christmas scene at the historic abbey; mulled wine and mince pies included. *Fountains Abbey, Rippon, Yorkshire (0765 86333).* Wed, Thurs, 7.30pm, £6 bookable.

● **Ilkley antiques fair:** Mainly pre-1890 date lines. *King's Hall and Winter Gardens, Ilkley, West Yorkshire. Fri 1-5pm, Sat, Sun 11am-6, £2.50.*

JUDY FROSHAUG

Social



The Marchioness of Blandford in the December

TATLER

Farmer's diary: Paul Heiney

A mess is as good as a meal

CAN pigs swim? There is a general belief that they can't, because in the act of paddling the sharpness of their front trotters would slit their throats. This may be bogus folklore or true, but if the rain does not stop soon I may be able to answer from experience.

The torrential soakings of recent days have turned the field where the pigs live into a black, slimy swamp. You can't walk through it any more, you can only paddle. If you could make soup out of coal, it would look like this once verdant patch of land. Given that our pigs are black to start with, and that my only pair of wellington boots happens to be black, you can imagine what feeding time is like, particularly when it is getting dark. I have found myself kicking my left foot with my right, thinking it to be a greedy pig, while

replied, "Well, I'm not eating them," he said. "They'll have germs." "They're disgusting," our six-year-old daughter added.

I dabbed the mushrooms lightly with a damp cloth, remembering that they should never be washed, and fried them lightly with butter. It is a long time since my taste buds had had such a treat. "Mmmm," my wife said, "very earthy."

The phone rang: it was London friends. "We're just eating mushrooms..." choked my wife. "...he found them on the muck-heap." "Oh no!" shrieked the distant voice. "Will you be all right?" I, too, choked. In outrage. "Where do the mushrooms in your smart London cateries come from?" I called across the room. "Grow in those little blue boxes on supermarket shelves, do they?"

I fear that most people now believe that food is born and bred in packets, and anything that is not vacuum-packed is second rate. My mother used to make exquisite Yorkshire puddings from flour, eggs and milk, until ready-mixed ingredients appeared in the shops. Now she will use only those they're packaged, so they must be better. They're not.

All this is bad news for farmers like me, who trudge valiantly through mud to feed our pigs on natural barley, or cattle on oats and kale. We pursue the production of wholesome, unpolluted food with a religious fervour, only to find that customers can't stomach the real thing. It is like the case of vegetarians who insist on organically grown food. Do they know that organic growing depends on what comes out of the back end of animals which are reared to be killed in the prime of their lives? I think not.

But I have delicious plans for the pigs. I have delved into aged tomes and discovered recipes for the curing of hams and bacon. I am planning a smoke house where slitches will hang and absorb their subtle aromas of smouldering chips of oak.

I mentioned this to a butcher. "Yes," he said, unmoved, "you can do it that way - but we've got this chemical you can just paint on. It gives it the colour and it gives the bacon flavour." What sort of flavour? I asked. "Oh," he replied, "a taste just like the real supermarket stuff... That's what people like."



The work stops here: Jo Cutmore and her husband, Mark Scott, have three (almost four) homes, but the Norfolk cottage is special, a place to which business friends are rarely invited

Home from home: Jo Cutmore

Headhunter in the wilds of Norfolk

Jo Cutmore, a personnel headhunter, and Mark Scott, her husband and business partner, maintain two homes in London because their work involves long hours and considerable entertaining. But they like to get out of the city whenever possible at weekends, to the five-bedroomed Georgian house they call "the cottage" in an area so remote it does not have a telephone signal (they make do with a fax and two phone lines).

On Friday evenings the Land Rover Discovery is loaded with their three children - Sam, aged six and a half, Jack, three and a half, and Hannah, four months - Freddie the King Charles spaniel and all manner of household and baby paraphernalia for the two-hour drive into Norfolk.

"It used to seem easy to get away to our idyllic retreat," Miss Cutmore says, "and we would always feel refreshed. But now, with three children, it's a major expedition and we never seem to have the right toys or food or clothes with us, however much we bring."

The boys now have duplicate sets of bikes to minimise this problem, and Hannah has prams, cots and so on in each home. When the couple's fourth house is finished - they are having one built on land they own in France to become a complete escape from fax and phones - they are not sure how they will manage.

"Last half-term we were in Norfolk and kept having to come back to London for meetings," Miss Cutmore says. "We had about half a dozen calls a day. It might be simpler, you could argue, to take the phone off the hook and disconnect the fax, but once a house is hooked up, she says, people know where you are, and they are persistent."

Miss Cutmore started her headhunting company (properly called executive search consultants) five

years ago. She called it Jamieson Scott because it was a name that implied a manly partnership, she says, even though, at first, it was an all-woman company. The name Jamieson is also a family name, and Peter Jamieson, her cousin, is an artist who has painted the view of their cottage, with a horse by the tree, which hangs in one of their living rooms in London.

"Sam is taking riding lessons at the local stables, but Mark and I have not ridden since Sam was a baby," Miss Cutmore says. "Basically we try to do as little as possible when we are in Norfolk."

Besides Miss Cutmore and her husband, the company has two other partners, which makes it a little easier to take breaks than when Miss Cutmore was running the business by herself.

"Although the recession is biting we are quite buoyant," she says, "but the emphasis is changing and we are becoming more service orientated than purely headhunters."

The Scotts have several office premises and have moved house seven or eight times in London during the time they have had the cottage, "so I suppose the cottage is what the children consider home, even though we go there only at weekends and half-term," she says.

"I have a close circle of friends there as I grew up in the area and

my parents still live nearby. We have tended to have the children's birthday parties and other family festivities at the cottage."

Whereas the Scotts' London homes - an elegant flat and a news house in different areas of the city - are decorated with capital chic, the cottage has a more lived-in feel: the colours are darker and warmer, complementing the beamed ceiling and inglenook fireplaces of the higgledy-piggledy house.

The cottage is long but only one room deep. It has spacious dining and sitting rooms but a small, galley-style kitchen. The furniture is "shabby by London standards," but she is not fussy about this as the cottage is the one home to which business contacts are seldom invited.

"The other day Jack trod in some dog dirt and trekked it in; it did not bother me that much; I just cleaned it up, whereas in London I would have had a fit if it had got on to the powder blue carpets," Miss Cutmore says.

In London, however, there are staff to clean up any messes, a nanny to prevent them, and a professional cook to produce corporate-quality lunches. In Norfolk, the Scotts fend for themselves, so weekends, particularly with a four-month-old baby, can be more exhausting than working days, and sometimes they stay in London just for a rest. "The

cottage is both constraining and bonding," she says. "Although we have no help, Jack and Sam have space there and they do not get under our feet so much. I think they enjoy the freedom because in London there is always someone to supervise them."

No longer do the Scotts bring London friends down to the cottage for weekends, as they did before they had children. "People wanted to be entertained and taken places," she says, "whereas we would live off barbecued food or canned stuff and just want to watch television. Now if we invite people over it's usually because they have children for Jack and Sam to play with."

The Scotts love having Christmas at the cottage, which smells permanently of wood fires. "But this year we're having Christmas in London, for a variety of

reasons," Miss Cutmore says. "And there are sometimes weeks in winter when we do not go out to Norfolk because it's too difficult."

When the house in France is complete it will be used for longer holidays. The pattern of their lives is changing, and circumstances might shortly require them to sell the cottage so that they can buy something more suitable for Miss Cutmore's parents, who do duty as babysitters and gardeners, to share with them. "The idea is that my parents would sell their place and we would sell this and with the proceeds from both we would get something for us all together," she says. "I know it's logical, but it will be a great wrench to have to sell the cottage. All our family memories are here."

Lately, Miss Cutmore has been daydreaming about removing herself to rural Norfolk on a permanent basis, trading her smart suits for a wardrobe of jeans and wellies.

"I've engineered a way so that the children could go to school there when the time comes - if we decide against London day schools - and I occasionally daydream of doing all my interviews by conference video and conducting the business entirely from the garden," she says. "But then I'm probably living in cloud cuckoo-land."

VICTORIA MCKEE

Feather report

Crete's delta dawn

A TOURIST is one who destroys what he or she seeks. A person involved in the development of tourism does the same job, but much faster. I learnt this years ago when I returned to a once perfect fishing village in Crete and found a booming beach resort.

Although it might seem that there is no escape from this harsh law of ruin by tourism, there is. And, in Crete, British tourists are at the heart of it.

The place in question is Gouves. This is a complex of lagoons on the north coast, on a river delta. It is the only river delta on the island, and the residents of Gouves have long been upset about this distinction. Just about every other village along the coast has made pots of money by lining the beach with villas, hotels and lodging houses. A bunch of lagoons and the delta have kept Gouves poor.

So, in recent years, the villagers have taken to dumping landfill into the lagoons, with the aim of reclaiming land and creating their own beach resort. So far, they have ruined about a third of the lagoon complex.

Lagoons are wonderful places for birds, however. Greater flamingos for a start: it is hard to find a bird with a more obvious appeal than a flamingo. The place is teeming with other exotics: glossy ibis, griffon vulture, pallid Montagu's falcon, honey buzzard, booted eagle, Eleonora's falcon... there is a list of 170 species at Gouves, and the place has still been properly watched only in the spring.



Robin Jacques

Lagoon lovers: greater flamingos at Gouves on the north coast of Crete

on their hands: they have a prime asset. The point, then, is the new and growing phenomenon of green tourism. Increasingly, people travel to see wildlife. Magazines are full of opportunities for holidays in exotic places, where you can see glorious birds and wonderful beasts. We are talking about conservation, and money. And most people like at least one of these.

The Royal Society for Nature Conservation and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds have been putting this double point to the Greek government, stressing the importance and vulnerability of Gouves. And the Greek government looks like taking action.

The turning point came when a party from the Greek government was taken to Minsmere, the RSPB's showpiece reserve in Suffolk, which attracts 100,000 visitors a year. It is a vastly impressive place, superbly managed. One visit there is enough to convince anybody that birds can be a source of wonder and delight for thousands of people.

Tourism is vital for Greece. Crete gets a million visitors a year, mostly Brits and Germans. It

conventional sun 'n' sand tourism. Yiannis Kefaloyiannis, the minister for tourism (and a Cretan), however, seems to have taken this step.

"These environmentally important sites offer regions of exceptional beauty in a most welcoming climate," he says. "They must be preserved and enhanced appropriately, especially in the widely varied natural reserves of Crete. We believe that the protection of birds, animals, fish and all other aspects of the environment belong within a wide network, which also includes top quality tourism in which Crete is universally recognised."

The minister will submit the plans for Gouves to the EC for funding. These include a management plan drawn up by Doug Ireland, Minsmere warden. The Hotel Federation of Crete has expressed enthusiasm. Sponsorship is being sought from tour operators in Britain and Germany.

Gouves is about a five-hour drive away from being saved. We have before us what looks like that rare and beautiful thing, a happy conservation story. It is a case of touching wood while giving three cheers for Kyril Kefaloyiannis.

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LONDON

ALADDIN: Jon Pertwee, Sophie Lawrence (of EastEnders), Peter Simon, Ping Pong the Panda, Duggie Clark, Back Theatre, Grange Road, Hayes, (081-551 5571). Dec 1-Jan 12.

ALADDIN: John Inman, Paul Shane, Susan Maughan, David Jensen, Eli Woods and Christopher Farries. Churchill Theatre, High Street, Bromley (081-480 8677). Dec 14-Jan 18.

ALADDIN: Nick Wilson, Samantha Lewis, Julie-Anne Byrnes. Adfield Theatre, Silver Street, Edmonton, N18 (081-557 6888). Dec 14-Jan 12.

ALADDIN: Traditional show. Crayford Town Hall, Crayford, (081-303 7777). Dec 12-Jan 13.

ALICE IN WONDERLAND: Cavalcade Theatre company in a musical version of Lewis Carroll's original, suitable for seven-year-olds and older. Marmalade, Puddle Dock, EC4 (071-236 5588). Dec 26-Jan 5, matinee only.

ANGEL: Puppet show adapted from Quentin Blake's book. Performances aimed at different age groups, from three-year-olds up.

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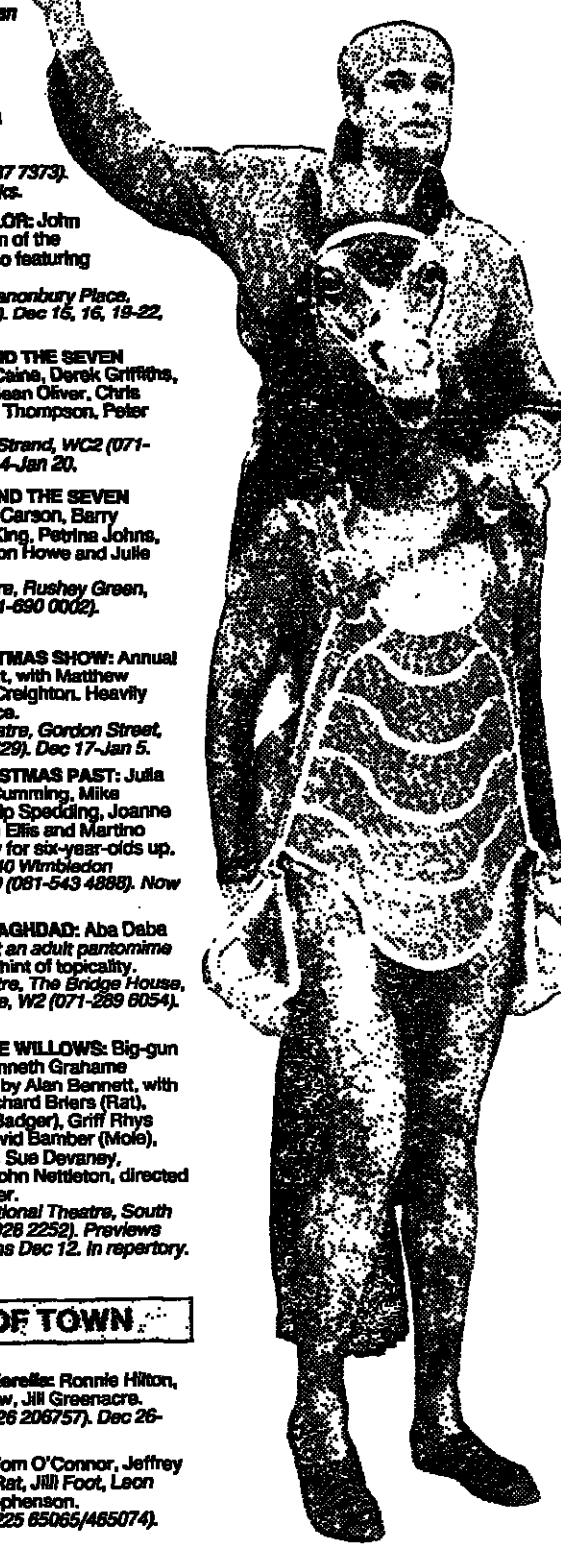
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Tony Patrick selects the best pantomimes for Christmas

Look out in front of you!



Kieron Smith in *The Horse and His Boy*, by C.S. Lewis, at the Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith

BLACKPOOL: Cinderella: Kathy Staff, Mark Curry and Federico Pym. Grand (0253 263782). Dec 17-Jan 12.

BOURNEMOUTH: Aladdin: Su Pollard, Matthew Kelly, Gordon Honeycombe, Dave Lynn and Hope & Keen. Pavilion (0202 221222). Dec 13-Jan 20.

BRADFORD: Jack & The Beanstalk: Max Boyce, Geoffrey Hayes. Alhambra (0247 752000). Dec 20-Feb 9.

BRIGHTON: Robinson Crusoe: Christopher Timothy, Jack Douglas, Louise Prewitt and Patricia Braks. Theatre Royal (0273 284888). Dec 13-Jan 12.

BRISTOL: The Red Balloon: Anthony Clark and Mark Vibran's musical adaptation of the 1956 French film. Old Vic Theatre Royal (0272 252025). Dec 14-Feb 9.

Cardiff: Michael Barrymore, Annabel Croft, Willy Ross and Simon Fox. Hippodrome (0222 298444). Dec 22-Feb 17.

CAMBRIDGE: Babes in the Wood: Sylvester McCoy, Gwyn Jones, David Mather, Felicity Goodson, Ron Aldridge and Clara Callaghan. Arts (0223 352000). Dec 14-Jan 12.

CHICHESTER: A Christmas Carol: Musical version of Dickens' tale. Festival (0232 781312). Dec 14-Jan 12.

COVENTRY: Cinderella: Own company, with Ian Lauchlan from BBC children's soap. Hippodrome (0242 361158). Dec 26-Jan 13.

DARTFORD: Sleeping Beauty: Kate O'Mara, Simon Bates, Peter Denyer, plus Vanessa Downing and Roger Aubrey (of Home and Away). Orchard (0222 843000). Dec 14-Jan 12.

EASTBOURNE: Aladdin: Rolf Harris, Caroline Dennis, Roger Kibler, Rob Stewart and Laurie Bennett. Congress (0232 412000). Dec 20-Jan 27.

EXETER: Sleeping Beauty: Musical version of the fairy tale. Northcott (0322 548833). Dec 12-Jan 26.

HALIFAX: Cinderella: Colin Handley from Neighbours, Tony Monopoly, Freddie & the Dreamers. City Theatre (0422 361158). Dec 26-Jan 13.

HASTINGS: Babes in the Wood: Nick Barry, Steve Johnson, Sara Peters and the Care Bears. White Rock (0424 722755). Dec 22-Jan 13.

HULL: Jack & The Beanstalk: Ruth Madock, Bobby Crush, Colin Baker, Paul Toothill and the Moskies. New (0482 226555/20244). Dec 14-Jan 26.

LEEDS: The Three Secrets of Serendip: Musical play for five-year-olds and older. Courtyard Theatre, West Yorkshire Playhouse (0532 442111). Dec 4-Jan 5.

Babes in the Wood: Leslie Ash from Cats Eyes, Ian Sharrock from Ennemaide and Ian Lavender. City Varieties (0532 430868). Dec 20-Jan 13.

LEICESTER: Postman Pat's Happy Christmas: Charles Savage and Bryan Day's stage version of the television favourite. Haymarket (0532 538797). Dec 12-Jan 12, matinee only.

LINCOLN: Cinderella: Frazer Hines, Christopher Gabbit, Cherie Gae and Diana Davis from Ennemaide. Theatre Royal (0522 522555). Dec 14-Feb 2.

LIVERPOOL: Gargling with Jeff: Wendy Harrison directs a singing and dancing show based on Brian Patten's poetry. Everyman (051-709 4776). Dec 1-Jan 26.

Around the World in Eighty Days: Michael Robbins, Peter Reeves, Steven Pacey, Andrew Secombe, Joanna Riding. In a musical adaptation from Jules Verne. Playhouse (051-709 8363). Dec 11-Jan 19.

Robin Hood and the Babes in the Wood: Stefan Dennis and Emma Rae (of Neighbours). Maureen Nolan, Johnny Kennedy, Wally Scott. Empire (051-709 1555). Dec 21-Feb 3.

MANCHESTER: The Weirdest Stone of Brinsford: Adaptation from Alan Garner's novel, by Rosie Cullen. Contact (061-274 4400). Dec 5-Jan 19.

Shed the Ballon: Library Theatre Company in Peter Fieldson's musical. Forum, Wythenshawe (061-437 9863). Until Jan 13.

Dick Whittington: Les Dawson, John Nettles, Ann Sidney, Mark Walker, The Roly Polys. Palace (061-236 9922). Dec 14-Feb 24.

MARGATE: Dick Whittington: Charlie Drake and Dawn Bowden. Theatre Royal (0843 228776). Dec 14-Jan 12.

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE: Jack & The Beanstalk: Vicky Murray and Michael Nicholson for Byker Grove. Denary Ferguson and Neil Armstrong. Playhouse (0232 7079). Dec 18-22, Jan 1-5.

Aladdin: The Kranks, Anita Dobson and Bernard Bresslaw. Theatre Royal (091-532 2061). Dec 15-Jan 26.

Dick Whittington: John Labanowski (of EastEnders), Melanie McAfee, Maxi and Mitch, Anna-Maria Gascoigne. Time Theatre and Opera House (091-232 0839). Dec 8-Jan 5.

NORTHAMPTON: Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs: Letitia Dean (of EastEnders), Billy Pearce, Syd Francis, Richard Swann, Jean Fergusson. Deergate (0604 26222). Dec 15-Jan 26.

PLYMOUTH: Beauty and the Beast: Orchard Theatre company's touring show, written and directed by Bill Buttery. Drum, Theatre Royal (0752 669595). Dec 4-29.

READING: Cinderella: Lisa Goddard, Rod Hull & Ems, Lionel Blair, Paul Gyngell and Michael Gyngell. Hexagon (0734 581591). Dec 17-Jan 26.

SALISBURY: Dick Whittington: Traditional show by Myles Rudge. Playhouse (0722 20333/20117). Dec 15-Jan 19.

The Pied Piper: Adrian Mitchell's musical version. Seaberg Theatre, Playhouse (0722 20333). Dec 22-Jan 12.

SCARBOROUGH: Callisto 5: New show for six-year-olds and older, written and directed by Alan Ayckbourn. Stephen Joseph (0737 370541). Dec 12-Jan 5.

SHEFFIELD: The Wizard of Oz: The musical version, as filmed. Crucible (0742 789922). Dec 13-Jan 19.

The Whale: For seven to 12-year-olds. Crucible Studio (0742 789922). Dec 4-22.

SOUTHAMPTON: Around the World in Eighty Days: Musical adaptation from

SCOTLAND

ABERDEEN: Babes in the Wood: Steve Robertson, Grant Baynam, George Duffus and Katherine Terry. His Majesty's (0224 64112/637786). Dec 7-Jan 5.

DUNDEE: Cinderella: Repertory company in a Christmas show rather than a traditional panto. Repertory (0382 27884). Nov 30-Jan 5.

EDINBURGH: Cinderella: Stanley Baxter returns to traditional panto, with full supporting cast. King's (011-229 1201/557 2727). Dec 4-Feb 16.

Haworth: Adaptation of the epic poem. Assembly Rooms, George Street (031-229 9667). Dec 13-Jan 5.

GLASGOW: Babes in the Wood: Gerard Kelly, Una McLean. King's (011-229 1201/557 2727). Dec 11-Feb 23.

INVERNESS: Red Riding Hood - The Sequel: Andy Gray and Jonathan Watson, in a show by Catherine Robins and Andy Gray. Eden Court (0483 221718). Dec 6-Jan 12.

WALES

CARDIFF: Cinderella: Jonathan Morris, Janet Dibby, Windsor Davies, Dame Hilary Bratt and Cheryl Taylor. New (0222 348444). Dec 8-Jan 19.

The Snow Spider: Based on the award-winning book and television programme by Jimmy Nimmo. Sherman (0222 230451). Until Jan 12.

SWANSEA: Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs: Stu Francis, Linda Lusard, Neil Morrissey, Mike Holway, Owen Money, Nikki Kelly and the Minstrels. Grand (0792 475715). Dec 18-Feb 3.

NORTHERN IRELAND

BELFAST: Robinson Crusoe: Jimmy Crickitt, Ian McFetridge, John Hewitt and Sweet & Simple. Grand Opera House (0232 241519/240411). Dec 12-Jan 26.

SATURDAY REVIEW, page 18

Christmas Gift Guide

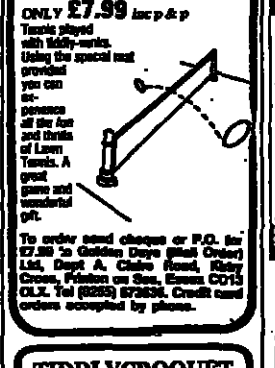
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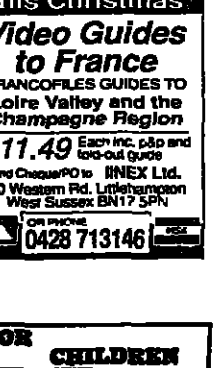
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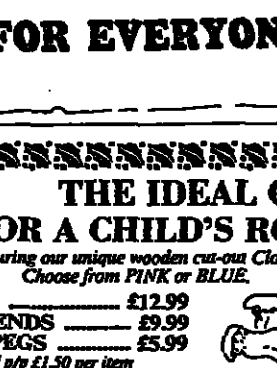
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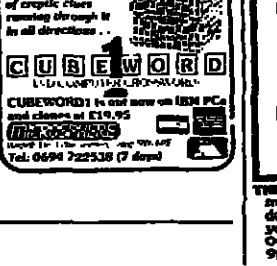
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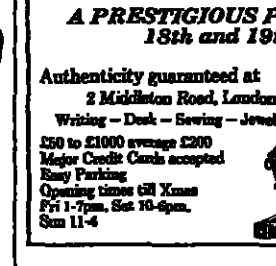
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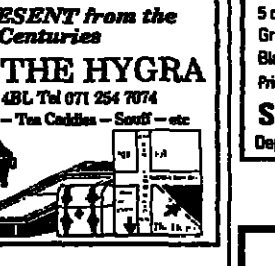
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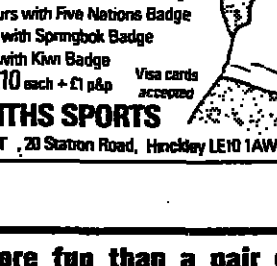
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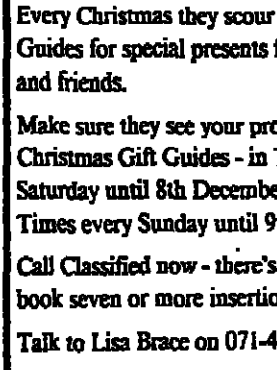
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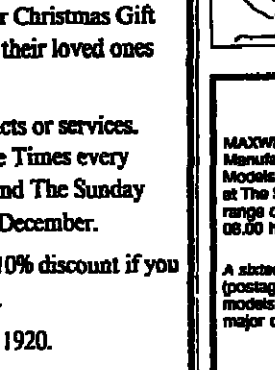
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WHO SHOPS WHERE AT CHRISTMAS?



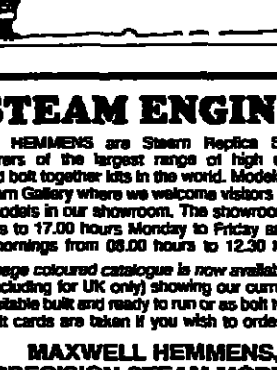
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Risky affair of the art on loan

The joy at the National Gallery in obtaining its new collection could end in tears, says Sarah Jane Checkland

Noted for its cupids and quantities of bare flesh, the National Gallery is the venue of a real life love affair. Having failed to seduce Baron Henri Thyssen-Bornemisza (remember that flying visit by the Prince of Wales to Lugano in 1988 when he tried to persuade the baron to keep his old master collection in Britain?) Lord Rothschild, the chairman of the gallery's trustees, has turned his attentions to Heinz Berggruen, owner of an extraordinary collection of late 19th and early 20th century art.

So far, the courtship has brought sensational returns: from January 16, visitors can enjoy 68 works by artists such as Van Gogh, Cézanne, Seurat and Picasso which have just arrived at the gallery. Seurat's *Les Poseuses*, in which three models adopt classical poses painted in the revolutionary Divisionist style, will rub shoulders with the gallery's *Bathers at Asnières*, while Van Gogh's *Public Garden*, owned by Berggruen, will compare with the gallery's *The Chair and the Pipe*. A string of important Picassos brings the value of the loan to £250 million.

The problem is that, although the affair is going strong, there is no permanency in the arrangement. Mr Berggruen, the German-born, French-educated American citizen, will be at liberty to remove his property in 1995, after benefiting from years of free insurance and publicity for the valuable paintings. He may then decide to leave them to his children.

There is of course nothing new in museums cultivating collectors. Following the recent cuts in purchase grants, directors have more incentive than ever to turn to them as potential sources of acquisitions. The question now is "who's using whom?"

While the public undoubtedly benefited in the short term, the Eighties saw numerous instances when the managers of the British Rail Pension Fund art collection displayed works in our national museums before selling them at huge profits. J.M.W. Turner's *Seascape, Folkestone*, bought for



Art to heart: Heinz Berggruen, the collector and dealer, with Picasso

£7.3 million by the family of Lord Thomson of Fleet in 1984, was subsequently lent to the National Gallery of Scotland. Timothy Clifford, the gallery director, hoped and believed that it would become a gift, but last year the painting was exported with a revised valuation of £20 million.

In the case of Mr Berggruen, there is a genuine admiration for his taste and style, both private and professional. Gary Tinterow, author of the catalogue to the 1983 exhibition of Mr Berggruen's collection in Geneva, says he has proven himself "completely immune to hucksterism and hype".

But even Mr Berggruen was not best pleased when the New York Metropolitan Museum failed to give his gift of Paul Klee works sufficient display priority. However distinguished his career was,

including friendships with many of the artists he collected, he nevertheless remains an art dealer.

As revealed in the December issue of *Apollo* art magazine, last year he swapped every one of his much admired 43 Matisse for the Van Gogh. Although Robin Simon, the editor of *Apollo*, does not touch on the question, to others the action could smack of speculation.

Speaking from the Paris gallery Berggruen et Cie, from which he officially retired in 1980, Mr Berggruen explained the deal: "I wanted the Van Gogh painting very badly, and the only way I could afford it was by exchanging it for the Matisse. It just so happens that I had to make a sacrifice." The Van Gogh was sold in the 1978 Henry Ford sale to the Argentinean collector Mrs Fortebach, and obtained by Mr Berg-

gruen through an intermediary.

Lord Rothschild said last week that the Berggruen collection's arrival in London was "a wonderful thing... it would be a shame if it is muddled by negativism".

Mr Berggruen said: "If we are all happy we may continue. Five years is quite a while to get used to each other. I am confident they will handle it professionally with no fuss. We shall see what happens."

But in five years' time the love affair will involve different personalities. Lord Rothschild will no longer be at the National, as his tenure runs out next May, while the director, Neil MacGregor, may also have gone, as his seven-year contract ends in January 1994.

What is certain is that Mr Berggruen cannot expect the nation to build a special display space for his collection; British

museum policy is to disperse bequests throughout the rest of a given museum's collections.

Nicholas Serota, the director of the Tate Gallery, would certainly expect that if important Picassos were being given to the nation, they would come to his gallery, which houses the national collection of 20th century art.

Mr Serota hopes the new prime minister, John Major, will encourage benefactors by improving private treaty and acceptance in lieu arrangements. He also advocates "giving some tax remission during the owners' lifetime for a picture which will come to the nation on their death".

Until then, gallery management must continue trying to seduce potential benefactors, even if they risk finding themselves minus a partner in the last dance.



Picasso's *Silence in Dancing Company*, from the Berggruen collection



On show shortly at the National: *At the Café-Concert*, by Picasso

Review

Art altruism: The Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge announced an old-fashioned, no-strings-attached bequest of £10 million of paintings by the likes of Stubbs, Lely, and Boucher. The works will arrive on the death of Dr Daniel McDonald, the 85-year-old Glaswegian industrialist.

Brave first act: Simon Jervis, the new director of the Fitzwilliam, launched a campaign to "save" the world's most expensive item of furniture from going abroad. Bought for £8.6 million by Mrs Barbara Johnson, at Christie's last summer, the Badminton Cabinet is destined for her American home if that sum can not be matched by a British museum. The running total stands at £2.25 million.

Cold reception: An austere landscape painting by Caspar David Friedrich, the German romantic painter, was left unsold at Phillips when bids stopped at £120,000. Estimate: £100,000 to £150,000.

Top flop: Christie's Scandinavian paintings sale was a failure when only five out of 18 works sold.

Animal magic: The Northampton Bestiary, a manuscript containing a 13th century view of the animal world, doubled the record for an English manuscript when it fetched £2.9 million at Sotheby's.

Star lots: Japanese marketing tactics worked wonders for Alain Delon, the French film star, when he auctioned 32 paintings for a total of £3.6 million in Paris. A dealer from Nagoya paid 6.3 million francs (£650,000) for a 1910 portrait of a young girl by Modigliani, and a Tokyo dealer paid 5.14 million francs for a view by Courbet.

Preview

Monday to Thursday: Impressionist paintings at Sotheby's, Christie's and Phillips in London. Highlights, which will be watched anxiously by market analysts, include some Picasso dancing girls of 1901 (Christie's, Monday, up to £8 million) and Elizabeth Taylor's Van Gogh (same estimate), several Renoirs (Sotheby's, Tuesday, 7pm, about £1 million each), Nolde's litho *Dancing Girl* (Chris-

tie's, Wednesday, about £100,000), a Picasso still life of 1919 (Phillips, Wednesday, 6pm, up to £150,000).

Monday: In Glasgow, at 11am, Christie's has a fine wine sale. At Hendon, north London, in the afternoon, Sotheby's is offering the ultimate motoring picnic set (up to £4,000) and vintage cars and equipment, including a 1930 pointed-tail Bentley two-seater (around £1 million).

Monday and Tuesday: A two-day fine arts sale held by Louis Taylor of Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, 10am each day.

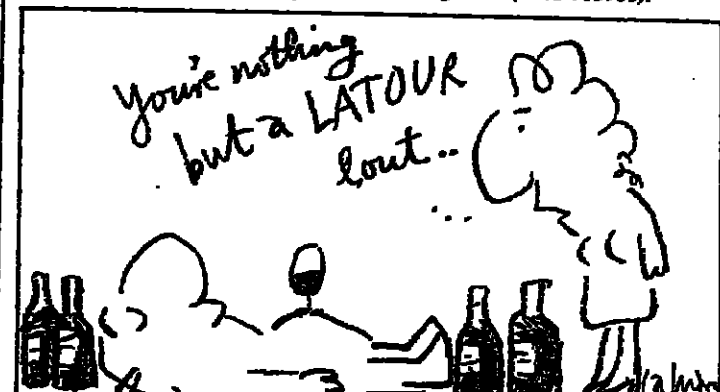
Tuesday: A busy day for Tribal Art buyers, with Christie's South Kensington offering some of the collection from the now closed Pitt Rivers Museum in Dorset from 10.30am. Bonhams continue with similar items from 2pm. Among the most expensive offerings are likely to be Pacific war clubs at up to £30,000 each.

Tuesday and Wednesday: Sotheby's Sussex offers British pottery and porcelain, and then furniture, primitive paintings and collectables at 10.30am each day.

Thursday: More wine from Christie's, this time in London and including a five-case parcel of Taylor '45 (more than £12,500) and a 49-case parcel of Latour '70 (more than £35,000). Christie's South Kensington ventures into the currently troubled outback with Australian paintings, 10.30am. It may find that the doll and teddy bear market is more reassuring at 10.30am and 2pm. In Glasgow at 7pm, the same auction house has 70 works by four of the Scottish Colourists.

Thursday and Friday: Sotheby's sale of old masters to modern prints includes 40 Rembrandts in unusually good condition.

Sotheby's, 35 New Bond Street, W1 (071-493 8080). Christie's, King Street, St James's, W1 (071-839 9000). Phillips, 101 New Bond Street, W1 (071-629 6602). Louis Taylor, 10 Town Road, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire ST1 2DG (0782 260222). Christie's South Kensington, 85 Old Brompton Road, SW7 (071-581 7611). Bonhams, Montpelier Street, SW7 (071-584 9161). Christie's Scotland, 164-166 Bath Street, Glasgow G2 (041-332 8134). Sotheby's Sussex, Summers Place, Billingshurst (0403 783933).



Marcos millions on show

Art accumulated by the Philippines' former first lady will be previewed in London next week

IMELDA Marcos, the former first lady of the Philippines, built up a sizeable collection of art during her husband, Ferdinand's, two decades in power. Now, at the orders of the Philippines government, part of her treasure trove is to be sold.

More than 100 paintings, most of them old masters, as well as some valuable silver, including a dinner service made by Paul Storr for the third Earl of Egremont in 1806-07, will be auctioned by Christie's in New York on January 10 and 11, following a preview in London next week.

Lord Carrington, the chairman of Christie's, flew to Manila to lobby President Cory Aquino for the Marcos lots. The auction house believes that the old masters, including a Raphael and a Titian, will fetch \$10 million (£5.1 million). The silver is estimated at up to \$4.5 million.

Others are not so sure about the collection. In the process of cataloguing the sale, many of the canvases' attributions have been questioned, and some discarded. Everett Fahy, the chairman of the department of European paintings at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, in New York, has dis-



Under scrutiny: Imelda Marcos and Raphael's *St Catherine*

missed the Marcos collection as "absolute rubbish, not of a quality you could assign to any recognisable artist".

At Mrs Marcos's trial on racketeering and fraud charges - of which she was eventually found not guilty - in New York earlier this year, it was alleged that art and property were the principal means by which she and her husband laundered \$300 million they were alleged to have stolen from the Philippines.

Some of the art discovered in Mrs Marcos's New York

houses has already been sold. A flower painting by Fantin-Latour, which was found under a bed, made \$440,000 and a Henry Moore bronze \$286,000. With furniture and jewellery, \$1.4 million has been raised.

Most of the paintings in the January sale come from the Metropolitan Museum of Manila. Proceeds will go to earthquake victims and agrarian reform in the Philippines.

Ian Kennedy, the senior vice-president and director of old master collections for

Christie's New York, is angry that the Marcos sale has been talked down. He admits that the original Metropolitan Museum of Manila catalogue was "not up to present-day scholarly standards", but insists that paintings by Raphael (a small panel depicting St Catherine of Alexandria), Titian and Tintoretto stand up to scrutiny.

The Titian, a portrait of the painter-architect Giulio Romano, which appeared in the "Splendours of the Gonzagas" exhibition at the Royal Academy in 1981, is particularly good, he claims, and a picture, formerly attributed to the Mantegna master, has been upgraded to Segna di Buonventura and priced at \$1 million. There are also good examples of Andrea di Bontaiuto, Antonio Guardi, Francesco Zuccarelli and Giandomenico Tiepolo.

The silver was discovered strewn among the guest houses of the presidential palace in Manila. Only 107 plates are left from the 130-piece Egremont dinner service, which was sold for \$260,000 at Christie's in 1979, then a record price for English silver. The purchaser was Koopman, the London gallery, the managing director, says he never dealt directly with the Marcoses. "We sold the articles to another person, but I can't say whom."

ANDREW LYCETT

Highlights of the Marcos collection will be at Christie's, King Street, London from next Wednesday to Friday.

WORLD-WIDE threads of interest are being woven into a pretty pattern in London with two impressive exhibitions by dealers in oriental collections. Eskenazi has secured the dispersal of the Japanese lacquer *inro* and other boxes acquired over 60 years by Charles A. Greenfield, the American collector, and Blüett is offering Chinese jade pieces from the collection of Professor Cheng Te-k'un, the distinguished archaeologist and art historian.

The Japanese took the craft of lacquer from China and elevated it into a sophisticated minor art form. The Greenfield collection is devoted to boxes from the 17th to 19th centuries. Most are the multi-sectional seal boxes known as *inro* - a little stack of trays held on a double string which is in turn secured to the wearer by a *netsuke* button, which may be lacquer, stone, wood or ivory.

There are also writing boxes and, as a centerpiece, a complete incense ceremony set, used in competitions, particularly in the 18th century.

Gems of lacquer and jade

and should return there as there are few of such quality in Japanese museums - many other boxes could have been tailored to foreign tastes, such as the overall gift pieces which found their way into British collections, and *inro* with stylised bellflowers or a scene from the *Tales of the Genji*, owned respectively by Tiffany, the jeweller, and the Goncourt brothers.

Among those that appealed to me most was an *inro* showing crows at night. There is a marvelous moon-shadow, and a little gold and red is

collectors: from £500 for a round red *kago* carved with stylised blossoming plum from the late 17th century, to £350,000 for the incense ceremony set. Professor Cheng's jades at Blüett are from the Neolithic Hongshan culture of about 3200BC to the mid 1800s. Here, again, there is humour, particularly in the figures of foreign tribute bearers.

I covet a little hand-sized dish carved as a six-petalled flower in translucent pale greyish-green with brown markings. It is of uncertain date, perhaps Yuan of around AD1300.

Scholarship and archaeology are still at work in this field, and even more than the *inro*, these jade artefacts are affordable things, ranging from £300 for an exquisite pair of flower-head buttons to £75,000 for a splendid pale grey-green *bixie*, a fierce and bewinged mythical feline creature from the Six Dynasties, the contemporary and contrasting period to our Dark Ages.

HUON MALALIEU

Eskenazi, Foxglove House, 166 Piccadilly, W1 (071-493 5454). Incense set

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GALLERIES

All the changing scenes of life

John Russell Taylor
observes how the
Impressionists are
unmasked at the
National Gallery,
and (below) reviews
the Hayward's
Jasper Johns show

A popular view is that scholarship and the embodiment of art are somehow natural enemies. We murder to dissect; too clear an analysis of the results puts the magic to flight.

The aim of the National Gallery's series of exhibitions under the heading "Art in the Making" is possibly to give the lie to such notions. If that is the case, it has certainly succeeded, and never more triumphantly than with the third (and, for the moment, last) Impressionist, sponsored by Esso, like its predecessors.

First, no one has to read the captions. It is always open to the visitor to take this as simply a splendid display of 15 great Impressionist paintings from the gallery's collection, with three pre-Impressionist French paintings thrown in for good measure. On that level, it works extremely well: the pictures have seldom been displayed to better advantage.

Who would carp at seeing, for example, Monet's "Music in the Tuileries Gardens", Renoir's "The Umbrellas", Pissarro's "The City de Bouffis at L'Hermitage", Monet's "The Gare Saint-Lazare", and Sisley's "The Watling Place at Marly-le-Roi" all together in the same room?

But then, seeing that the captions are there, clearly visible even to those who do not choose to buy the excellent book which summarises and illustrates the conclusions of the show, it would be unwise not to glance at them at least. The information they contain is fascinating in itself, and really does deepen appreciation and understanding — and therefore enjoyment — of the paintings they accompany.



Monet's "The Gare Saint-Lazare" (1877): one of the Impressionist paintings analysed in *Art in the Making* at the National Gallery

Take "Umbrellas", a Renoir which has appealed to many who do not normally like Renoir. It is generally categorised as the beginning of his "cool" period, when his pictures took on an altogether greyer tonality and veered, temporarily at least, away from the rich (or over-rich) sensuality of his earlier works. But even that does not account for the slight unease often felt in front of it, the sense that there is something there which requires repeated viewing, and even then remains elusive.

The National Gallery's analysts have come up with an explanation: Renoir painted it in two distinct phases, precisely distin-

guishable because he used two different kinds of blue pigments. The first phase accounts for the "typical" Renoir figures in the right foreground, almost sentimental in their charm; the second for the figure to the left and the abstract pattern of blue/grey umbrellas at the back.

Possibly Renoir himself felt that there was something unresolved about the picture, since it was never exhibited in Paris and did not appear in public until 1908, more than 20 years after it was painted. He probably realised it was in two styles, each of which works in its own terms. This gives the picture its curiously modern tone.

Possibly it recalls another picture that changed styles in midstream and thereby changed the course of art history: Picasso's "Demoiselles d'Avignon".

This is only one example of the illumination and enlightenment the show provides. Elsewhere, it is made clear time and again just how much sheer brainwork the Impressionists put into their paintings. Monet said he wanted his works to appear as easily and spontaneously painted as the bird sings. He never said that he actually painted them that way. Laboratory analysis shows how he, and Pissarro, and even the genuinely spontaneous Sisley,

worked over their first ideas, refining, altering, adding and eliminating in the studio, months or sometimes years after the first careless capture on the spot, in the open, in front of the subject itself.

Nobody is going to think the worse of them for it; many will think better of them, definitely acquitted of glibness. Besides, improved understanding has never yet killed instinctive enjoyment. The paintings, after all, are still there to speak for themselves.

Art in the Making: Impressionism National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, WC2 (071-839 3321) Mon-Sat 10-6, Sun 2-6, until February 28.

Distinctive whisper in gallery

The thing about Pop Art is that it shouts. The thing about Jasper Johns is that he whispers. The distinction needs to be made, because from the start Johns has been identified with Pop Art. Understandably enough, given his recurrent preoccupation with such Pop Art icons as the Stars and Stripes, or letters and figures reproduced poster-style or, lately, a new interest in ale cans (as distinct from Warhol's soup cans).

Although the subject matter may be similar, however, and the moment of entry into the scene is virtually identical, technique and attitude mark him as a man apart from the rest.

All this is peculiarly evident in the Hayward Gallery's big new show of Jasper Johns drawings. Many of them, particularly the earlier ones, are in monochrome — though a new definition of monochrome seems to be required to cover the in-

finite gradations of effect he achieves.

If "drawing" implies something flung off casually in an idle moment, that term is also inappropriate: these are mostly complex and premeditated (or remediated) works of art, as the intricate and sometimes tentative medium descriptions attest. Presumably, Johns himself cannot remember now just how such exotic ingredients as lighter fluid came to be involved. The same subjects keep recurring: the flag, the two infinitesimal balls, the coat-hanger, the strangely floating figure of the watchman. It becomes clearer and clearer that they are not there for their own sake, but as excuses for a formal exploration of textures and the infinite gradations that black contains.

Later on, colours start to be more evident. There are the abstract patterns made up of irregular shapes latticed with single colours. Once established,

these have remained a hallmark up to the present. There are more flags, in more or less their expected shades. There are glimpses into the studio — though, curiously enough, when a pot of paint brushes is depicted, the colours that might be expected are conspicuously absent. And there are views, apparently, of the artist's own bathroom, with taps in the foreground (this is a bath-eye view) and a Picasso, or his own pastiche of Picasso, on the wall beyond.

His work is meticulous and immaculate, but perhaps a trifle thin. Only so long can he be spent admiring the care for minutiae, the best-try elusiveness of subjects which seem always to be bordering on non-existence. But then, sooner or later, vulgarity will surface. Why has Johns always chosen to make so much of so little? Is it really a natural hyper-sensitivity and refinement

that keeps him so toned-down? Or is it rather the harping on of few stereotyped themes of one who has long since run out of anything new to say?

Without raising again the whole vexed question of form versus content in modern art, it is difficult not to wonder why what starts as a precise and civilised pleasure gradually shades into impatience and boredom.

The same impression was produced by Johns' prize-winning retrospective at the Venice Biennale. At the same time, Cy Twombly, who might have been taken for a similarly circumscribed artist, produced a spectacular self-renewal in another pavilion. Maybe it is still not too late for Johns to do likewise.

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

The Drawings of Jasper Johns Hayward Gallery, South Bank, London SE1 (071-261 0127), daily 10-6 (Tues, Wed to 8), until February 3.



Detail from Johns' "Fall" (1986): an exploration of the gradations of black

THE third of the Four Sea Interludes from Britten's *Peter Grimes* is supposedly a calm nocturne. In the opera it is usually seen as a deceptive calm before the onset of the turbulent denouement. But such is the American conductor Leonard Slatkin's ear for sharply differentiated vocal colours that his account with the London Philharmonic on Thursday painted a far less tranquil scene than usual.

The falling raindrops of the firsts had a glassy brilliance, while the metallic edge of the xylophone was sharply enhanced. If these were intimations of the storm to come, the fury of the gale itself was unleashed with startling immediacy in the final interlude.

Interpolations like those on wind and brass are the very stuff of an Elgar score such as the Violin Concerto. The question was whether Slatkin could etch in those details without distorting the shape and flow of the broader canvas.

That was quickly answered. He

Eminent Elgarian

CONCERT
LPO/Slatkin
Festival Hall

has already established his credentials as an Elgarian, not least with his fine recording of *The Kingdom* (also with the London Philharmonic). In the concerto he showed a sovereign command of the score, synthesising all the little woodwind flecks and brass flourishes into imposing lines, and gathering up the overlapping strands of string tone into heartfelt utterances.

The indomitable Ida Haendel, standing in for Salvatore Accardo, negotiated her way through all this, singing out with passionate

tone when required, but equally prepared to take a back seat when the melodic interest passed elsewhere. Nor was there anything but accord between the conductor and the soloist in their handling of the constant tempo fluctuations that characterise Elgar's score. They breathed as one, and the entire orchestra with them.

Nowhere was this rapport more effective than in the extraordinary accompanied cadenza towards the end of the finale. First the orchestral strings set the mood with their eerie tremolos; then, with their instruments tucked under their arms and strummed like guitars, they provided a self-effacing but atmospheric backdrop for the soloist's flights of introspective fancy, elaborated with eloquent expressiveness by Haendel. Slatkin conducts English music again at the Festival Hall tomorrow evening, when the main fare will be Walton's *Belshazzar's Feast*.

BARRY MILLINGTON

Dramatic pretence

DANCE
Bloodlines
Covent Garden

THE Opera House bars, at least, should be grateful for *Bloodlines*, a work lasting only 25 minutes but needing intervals of 30 minutes or more to erect and dismantle its decor. The long pause gives time also for pondering why Ashley Page makes lucid and interesting works in small arts centres or for Rambert Dance Company, but when offered the resources of Covent Garden or television, he falls into producing pretentious nonsense.

Drama Petherbridge's decor (by Escher, out of *Metropolis*) provides sloped walkways high above the stage: only one of them negotiable. Along this, and across the floor, trudge women with industrial earmuffs and men with safety visors. The protagonist is Bruce Sansom, harried by William Trevitt and accosted by Lynne Bristow and Viviana Durante, exotic in white.

Darcey Bussell and Nicola Roberts, like two hours in knitwear, are offered as a distraction by Adam Cooper, but, in the end, Sansom tries to escape up the ladder. Page told the *Times* on Wednesday that he wanted to be dramatic, not narrative, but sadly the result seems more like narrative without drama.

Unfortunately, it all looks old-fashioned, and sounds it too, with Bruce Gilbert's tape offering a mix of highbrow rock and machine or snoring noises. Page's dislocated classicism does little for the women or the ensemble, but the three leading men all go at it sharply and cogently.

The choreography itself is



Roberts and Bussell in Ashley Page's *Bloodlines*

Violin Concerto. Although nearly 20 years old, its new uses for old steps, its twists and combinations, are more unexpected and more daring than anything Page comes up with — partly because Balanchine got so much more help from his choice and understanding of music.

This makes tough going for the Royal Ballet dancers, who come up with uneven, though mostly forceful, performances. They look more at home in the showpiece dances from *Raymonda* which ends the programme with a reminder of the Petipa legacy Balanchine and Page use as their starting point for extension or contradiction.

Altynai Asylmuratova gives the title part a refulgent splendour; Irak Mukhamedov looked not always at ease, although dazzling at moments. There will be more to say later about *Raymonda* and *Violin Concerto* with varied casts;

CRITICS' CHOICE

The best records of the year

ROCK

DAVID SINCLAIR

IN A year beset by pneumatic dancefloor beats and the shallow ravings of Northern bands with Attitude, the Blue Aeroplanes' fifth album, *Swagger* (Ensign CHEN 13), stands out as a rather lonely creation of savage beauty. Ostensibly a vehicle for vocalist Gerard Langley's surreal poetry, the album is borne aloft by a divine patchwork of chiming guitars, their gladiatorial interplay producing a wealth of themes with an exquisite mystical lustre.

The astringent purity of folk veteran June Tabor's voice and the firm instrumental backbone of those new-wave roots stars, the Oyster Band, proves a charmed coupling on *Freedom and Rain* (Cooking Vinyl COOK 031). The album combines traditional folk virtues and a bright, modern shimmer.

Long acknowledged as the greatest "young" guitarist currently operating in the blues idiom, Robert Cray blossoms as a singer and songwriter on *Midnight Strid* (Mercury 846 652-4). On down-tempo tracks such as "My Problem" and the pulverising "Move a Mountain", he infuses his sophisticated, neatly pressed chops with a searing dose of Stax-era soul passion.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

PAUL GRIFFITHS

MOST record companies have interpreted this year as a crescendo towards the Mozart bicentenary. The Drottningholm-based Don Giovanni (L'Oiseau-Lyre 425 943-2, three CDs) must count as one of the most exciting reinterpretations. What matters is not only the sharpened fizz, energy and caustic drama of the period-instrument playing under Arnold Östman, but also the excellently suave and characterful cast, led by Håkan Hagegård as Giovanni. Uniquely, the set follows the original Prague version but also includes all the music Mozart wrote for the Vienna revival.

René Jacobs's performance of Handel's *Flavio* (Harmonia Mundi HMC 901312.13, two CDs) is a revelation of the consciousness that can be found in *opera seria* when the voices are allowed to lead and the instruments are made to bend towards and around them. Anyone who thought Handel's operas a graveyard of formal emotions should start here: the performance is luscious.

Then for music of our own time, try the varied Berio triptych brilliantly performed by the Concertgebouw under Riccardo Chailly (Decca 425 832-2). The classic *Sinfonia*, a river of voices, instruments and allusions, has never been so well recorded; the garland of *Folk Songs* is startlingly well sung by Jari van Nes; and *Formazioni* shows Berio's orchestral imagination charging on.

HILARY FINCH

THIS year saw the world premiere recording of the piano-accompanied version of Mahler's *Das Lied von der Erde* (Teldec 2292 46276-2), and it has fleshed out the composer's own admission that "what one writes has always seemed to me more important than what it is scored for". Brigitte Fassbaender, Thomas Moser and Cyprien Katsaris show Mahler's original piano version to be a true alternative to the orchestrated work, not merely a forerunner.

Another challenge to the preconceptions of ear and mind is thrown out by Brigitte Fassbaender's recording of Winterreise (EMI CDC7 49846-2). Its superficial distinction is, of course, being one of the few recordings of the work to be sung by a woman; its substantial value is in the way every changing colour in the voice is used to propel the listener

through Schubert's dark journey of the soul.

Rudolf Firkušný, on the other hand, has no words to help him. But his own memories of his teacher, Janáček, and the events in Czechoslovakia which surround his piano pieces, filter through into gentle, searching performances of "On an Overgrown Path", and "A Recollection in the Mist" (RCA RD 60147).

STEPHEN PETTIT

THE record companies might be preparing lavishly for the Mozart bicentenary, but no composer was served better this year than Haydn, thanks to the English Concert's six-disc sequence of the "Sturm und Drang" symphonies. It is unfair to single out one particular disc when the playing on all six is so vibrant, but I shall choose a record which contains the three major key symphonies: Nos 41 in C, 48 in C and 65 in A (Deutsche Grammophon Archiv 427 660-2).

If this is guaranteed to elevate the spirits, so is Andrew Parrott's uplifting account with the Taverner Choir and Players of Handel's oratorio, *Israel in Egypt* (EMI CDS 754018 2). Parrott's choir makes the most of the enormous variety in the piece which many more ordinary performances hide. Play it unashamedly loudly.

My last choice is Nimbus's recording of George Benjamin's evocative and very beautiful *Antara* (NI 5167), a work that explores and reacts to the sounds of Peruvian panpipes, which Benjamin has manipulated with the help of IRCAM's computer. The disc also includes Jonathan Harvey's spiritual, exotic Tagore setting, *Song Offerings*, as well as two brief jewels by Boulez, *Dérive* and *Mémoriale*. Benjamin himself conducts the London Sinfonietta.

JOHN HIGGINS

ROSSINI occurs regularly among the annual choices as his operas one by one are rediscovered or uncovered. Sony's *La gazza ladra* (83K 45 850), led by Ricciardi and conducted by Geminelli, makes the best possible case for Rossini's uncharacteristically homely opera.

EMI's *Hansel und Gretel* (CDS 7 54022 2) is Jeffrey Tate's best opera recording and shows him in the post-Wagner repertory he loves. Fresh children, sturdy parents and a cackling witch... what more is needed for Christmas?

Finally, in the month of Elisabeth Schwarzkopf's 75th birthday, I will choose her *Encores* (EMI CDM 7 63654 2). Most of the songs on this collection, which draws on some of her earliest recordings, are disarmingly familiar and "Danny Boy" is incomparable.

JAZZ

CLIVE DAVIS

AS THE voice of InterCity, Leon Redbone is in danger of losing his position as a cult artist. *Sugar* (Private Music/BMG 260555) found him meandering down Tin Pan Alley with a band featuring Cyndi Cashdollar's dobro guitar and reeds player Ken Peplowski. In the wave of recordings by over-hyped young players, Remembrance (Verve 841723) by the Harper Brothers (trumpeter Philip and drummer Winard), showed more individuality than most. Though Art Blakey is no longer with us, his influence lives on in this quintet.

First among equals is BG in Hi-Fi (Capitol/EMI CDP7-92864): Benny Goodman's glorious big-band and small group sessions from 1954. A sumptuously engineered recording, whipped along by crack soloists including Ruby Braff.

Books of the Year, Saturday Review, page 24

MARVELLOUS TERRIFIC
THE TIMES
FIVE TITS
NAMED
FACE!
LYRIC THEATRE

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Alias myth of Jones

"The idiotic grin and the laugh like a vacuum-cleaner at full blast are only Griff Rhys Jones's professional stock-in-trade. Out of office hours, he is fresh-faced, wide-eyed and diffident. Substitute the leather jacket for tweed and turn his collar round, and you would have a perfectly believable provincial curate, circa 1930."

Kate Saunders on Griff Rhys Jones

RICHARD O'BRIEN'S
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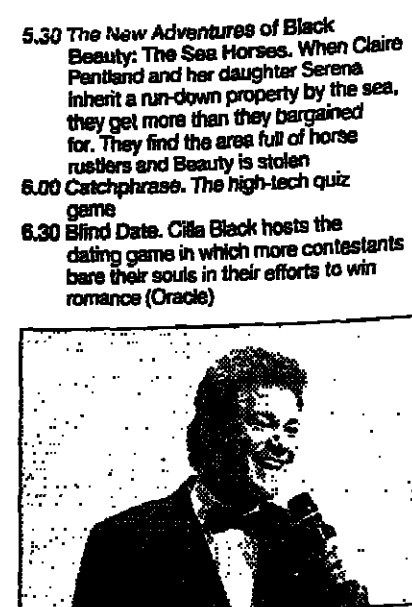
- 7.00 Crystal Traps and Alistair. Cartoon fun about a girl and her dog (7.05) Janosch's Story Time. Cartoon (7.30) Pudding Pops. Cartoon (7.35) Babar the Elephant. Animated version of the classic children's tale.
- 8.00 Breakfast Series. Caroline Berry, John Biggs, Lucy Jenkins and William Patie with another episode of the six series in six different styles, from thriller to comedy. 8.35 BraveStarr. Space adventures cartoon for children (7.30).
- 9.00 Going Live! with Sarah Greene and Philip Schofield. Guests include Bruce Forsyth, pop star Betty Boo and Neighbours stars Kristian Schmid and Jessica Muschamp.
- 12.12 Weather
- 12.15 Grandstand presented by Bob Wilson. The line-up is (subject to alteration): 12.20 Rallying: Steve Rider with highlights of the Lombard RAC rally; 12.50, 1.25, 2.00 and 2.30 Racing from Chesham; 1.10 News; 1.15 Cricket: Highlights from England's first one-day international in the world series cup in Adelaide, where their opponents are New Zealand; 1.40, 2.15, 2.45 and 4.00 Snooker: the first seven frames of the best-of-31, two-day final of the Stormont UK professional championship from the Guild Hall, Preston; 2.55 Rugby League: live coverage of the second half of what should be a close-foughted Regal trophy first round match between Widnes and Hull; 3.50 Football half-times; 4.40 Final Score

- 5.05 News with Maura Stuart. Weather
- 5.15 Regional news and sport. Wales (to 6.05) Wales on Saturday
- 5.20 The Flying Doctors. An uncomplicated adventure with the Australian flying doctors. Coopers Crossing is thrown into chaos when Emma (Liz Burch) and Chris (Rebecca Gibney) are taken hostage by two young criminals. (Ceefax)
- 6.05 The Noel Edmonds Saturday Roadshow. The show is set in a diner and Noel Edmonds is joined by stand-in comedian Gary Davies, who accepts the Gunge Tank challenge, and sports personality Emylin Hughes, who came herself a "Gunge Oscar"
- 6.50 Every Second Counts. Paul Daniels with another edition of the quiz show in which married couples have to compete against the clock. This week's competitors come from Woodhouse Mill, Sheffield, Margate and Colgrave, Nottingham
- 7.25 Challenge Anneka. Schoolgirl Anneka and her challenge as Anneka Rice and her Challenger truck drive on the impossible in a good cause. This week she is helping Scilly Islanders to keep their feet dry (Ceefax)
- 8.15 Film: Soul Man (1989) starring C. Thomas Howell, Rae Dawn Chong and James Earl Jones. When his family refuses him the money to get through Harvard law school, a white student darkens his skin and wins a scholarship intended for disadvantaged black students. An often very funny satire on racial attitudes, with witty dialogue, although it sometimes overdoes the stereotype

- jokes. Howell shines as the young man with the tanning pills and there is good support from a well-chosen cast. Steve Miner directs energetically. (Ceefax)
- 10.00 News with John Humphrys. Sport and weather
- 10.20 Ben Elton: The Man From Auntie. Ben has never quite been the same since Elton aired his views on the subject in a monologue that can only be described as an extraordinary piece of modern comedy. Short, sharp and pointed, his words and style may not be to everybody's taste, but his message is clear - "I've done this, you've done this, we all do it and isn't it funny when we do?" (7)
- 10.50 Snooker. Highlights of the second seven frames session from today's play in the best-of-31 UK championship final at the Guild Hall, Preston. The commentators are Ted Lowe, Jack Kammann and Clive Everton
- 12.25am Film: Ransom (1984) starring Gregory Harrison, Arvis Whiteley and Bill Kerr. A man searching for his missing wife, an animal rights campaigner, learns that a man-eating bear is lurking outside the small Australian outback town where she was looking into a pet food factory run by a pair of psychotic brothers. This is an enjoyable horror film with a streak of black humour. Ransom's director, Mulcahy, learnt his trade directing rock videos for bands such as Duran Duran and was also responsible for the cult film Highlander. His strong visual style is enhanced by clever art direction and crisp editing
- 2.00am Weather

TV LONDON

- 6.00 TV-am
- 9.25 Motormouth. With Andy Crane, Gabby Roslin and Neil Buchanan. The Junior Golfers of the Year attend a masterclass given by champion Nick Faldo; and there is a trip to see Cliff Richard in action
- 11.00 An Historic Moment: Channel Tunnel Breakthrough presented by John Suchet. Coverage of the official ceremony to mark the linking of the British and the French ends of the Channel tunnel
- 11.30 Motormouth continued
- 12.30 Saint & Greaves. Ian St John and Jimmy Greaves preview the weekend's sport, including tomorrow's game between Arsenal and Liverpool
- 1.00 News with Nicholas Owen. Weather
- 1.05 LWT News and weather
- 1.10 An Historic Moment: Channel Tunnel Breakthrough. Continued coverage of the ceremony beneath the sea
- 1.55 The Day I Took My HIV Test (7.30pm)
- 2.00 Sportsmasters. The third quarter of the sporting quiz hosted by Dickie Davies
- 2.30 The ITV Chart Show. The Vintage Video slot features the Stringers' Rags to Riches. Starring Josie Brolin as a millionaire who adopts five orphan girls
- 4.30 Disney Cartoon Time
- 4.45 Results Service introduced by Elton Wesley
- 5.00 News with Nicholas Owen. Weather
- 5.05 LWT News and weather
- 5.15 Disney Cartoon Time



A tribute to David Bell: Jim Davidson (7.30pm)

- 7.30 A Night of One Hundred Stars. Cilla Black, Christopher Biggins, Shakin' Stevens, Jim Davidson, Russ Abbot, Gary Wilmot and Stanley Baxter are among the stars of dozens for a tribute to David Bell, the television light entertainment producer and director who died in June.
- 10.10 News with Nicholas Owen. Sport and weather
- 10.25 LWT Weather
- 10.30 Ronald Dahl's Tales of the Unexpected: Vengeance Is Mine Inc. Two impoverished students dream-

- up a get-rich-quick scheme by which a gospel columnist's victims are given the chance of revenge. Starring Julian Fellowes and Bosco Hogan (7.30)
- 11.00 World Aids Day: Alison. A documentary about the life of Alison Gertz, a 24-year-old who, since being diagnosed as having Aids, has spent her time securing at colleges and talking frankly about the disease
- 11.25 Film: An Early Frost (1985). Moving portrayal of a family in reaction to the news that their son is not only gay, but has contracted Aids. A good script is done justice by fine acting and the film admirably avoids the trap of becoming a tearjerker. With Aidan Quinn, Gene Rowlands and Ben Gazzara. Directed by John Erman
- 1.00am Silent Screen - Hollywood and the Aids Crisis. Los Angeles critic Charles Champlin investigates the silence of the big Hollywood studios on the subject of Aids. He argues that studio heads have a responsibility to tackle this difficult subject and make the public more aware of the disease's significance
- 2.10 Crossword. The Global Impact of Aids. A look at the Aids problem as it affects different parts of the world and what measures are being taken to prevent its spread in each of the continents
- 3.10 American College Football. Alabama v Louisiana State
- 4.10 The Hit Man And Her Pets. Waterman and Michaela Strachan find out what's happening in disco clubland
- 5.10 ITN Morning News with Anne Leathers. Ends at 6.00

BBC 2

- 9.00 Open University
- 10.55 Holiday Outings. Kathy Taylor travels to southern Norway to spend a self-catering holiday in a log cabin (7)
- 11.05 Pitfalls of a Sporting Life. The sporting series examines the body's need for the right fuel if it is to maintain a high performance (7)
- 11.20 Bailout. Sue Beardsmore takes a trip in a hot-air balloon from a castle in Warwickshire to a chateau in Normandy (7)
- 11.50 The Honeycreepers (b/w). Vintage American comedy
- 12.15 Film: The Letter (1945, b/w). CHOICE: Somerset Maugham's tale of murder and betrayal on a Malayan rubber plantation has been filmed several times but never more effectively than in this version which starred Bette Davis and was directed by William Wyler, both at the peak of their reputations. Given her talent for playing scheming women, Davis was perfectly cast as the wife who kills her lover and pleads self-defence, only for the truth to emerge through a letter she wrote to her victim, Herbert Marshall, who in an earlier film adaptation had played the lover, is the deceived but forgiving husband and a lesser-known actor, James Stephenson, completes a trio of fine performances as the defence counsel. The opening scene, highly-charged and beautifully constructed with a perfect blend of sound and image, is justly famous
- 1.45 Animation: Nicky and the Bear Head, a tale from Czechoslovakia
- 1.55 Discoveries Underwater. A fascinating look at underwater archaeology. Tim Pigott-Smith examines trade in the days of sailing ships and visits contrasting wreck sites from Bermuda to Hastings (7). (Ceefax)

- 2.45 Mahabharat. The dramatisation of India's epic poem continues. In Hindi with English subtitles
- 3.25 Film: Rogues of Sherwood Forest (1950). Lively swashbuckler which sees John Derek as the Earl of Huntingdon, the son of Robin Hood, defending his tenants against the troops of ruthless King John. Directed by Gordon Douglas
- 4.40 Snooker. David Vine introduces highlights from the first seven frames of the best-of-31 final of the Stormont UK professional championship
- 5.25 Cricket. Richie Benaud presents highlights of the one-day match between England and New Zealand in Adelaide, part of the World Series Cup
- 6.15 Music for Life. Earlier this year, a host of leading classical musicians, actors and actresses gathered for a concert on the London South Bank to raise money for Crucial, the Aids charity. The day was filled with concerts, unjunctive events, a delightful river journey and contrasting musical world premieres. Stephen Sondheim and Ravi Shankar composed songs and there was a spectacular work by George Benjamin, based on W.B. Yeats's haunting poem "On Silence"
- 6.45 Late Again. Includes a repeat of Michael Jackson's conversation with the novelist Salman Rushdie
- 7.30 NewsView and weather
- 8.15 The Ring of the Nibelung. Götterdämmerung, act two. The combative historian Professor Norman Stone of Worcester College, Oxford, introduces the second act of Richard Wagner's Götterdämmerung. Wolfgang Sawallisch conducts the Bavarian State Opera Chorus and Orchestra. With Rene Kollo, Hildegard Behrens and Matti Salminen
- 9.30 Saturday Night Circus. For the last time in the present series Clive James has predictable fun at the expense of bizarre television clips from around



The history of Aids: Dustin Hoffman (10.20pm)

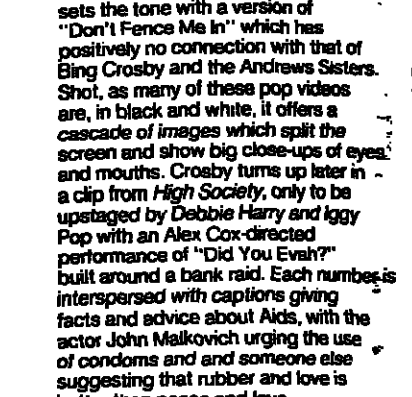
- the world, helped by the studio guest, Kenny Everett
- 10.20 Common Threads: Stories from the Quilt. CHOICE: An Oscar-winning documentary, narrated by Dustin Hoffman, tells the stories of five common threads that have linked Aids against the history of the disease in the United States since it first came to public attention at the beginning of the Eighties. The five are among some 13,000 victims commemorated in quilts on an Aids memorial quilt started in Chicago in 1987. Although representing the main categories at risk, homosexual men, drug users and haemophiliacs, the five are constructed not as types but as human beings whose only common thread was to be destroyed by the same disease. The five stories, told in first person and with the help of home movie footage, gain in power and poignancy by being intercut with contemporary news clips charting the bafflement of the medical profession and the heartfelt response of government
- 11.45 Twin Peaks. Episode six of David Lynch's cult series (1992, b/w). Musical romance with Dick Powell as the Broadway producer whose lampooning of a rich woman lands him in hot water. The slim plot is saved by the excellent performances from Powell and co-stars Alice Faye, Madeline Carroll, and a sparkling living Berlin score. Directed by Roy Del Ruth
- 4.30 Four Nations UK. Continuing the season of work by young British animators. Starting with Ra: The Path of the Sun God. Part three of Lesley Keen's feature focusing on ancient Egyptian beliefs
- 4.55 Strangers in Paradise (1937, b/w). Musical romance with Dick Powell as the Broadway producer whose lampooning of a rich woman lands him in hot water. The slim plot is saved by the excellent performances from Powell and co-stars Alice Faye, Madeline Carroll, and a sparkling living Berlin score. Directed by Roy Del Ruth

CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 Comic Book 7.30 News summary
- 7.35 International Times 8.00 Transworld Sport
- 9.00 News Summary 9.05 Channel 4 Racing: The Morning Line. A preview of today's racing and a review of the week's action
- 9.25 Sing and Swing. Archive jazz from musicians of the Thirties and Forties
- 9.30 Same Difference. Libby Cross and Mark Todd present the programme which reflects the concerns of disabled people (7.10) Check Out. Consumer affairs (7.10) Double Life (1942, b/w) starring Mickey Rooney, Fay Holden, Cecilia Parker and Lewis Stone. Andy prepares to go to college but finds himself with financial and emotional problems, including two fiancées. An entertaining addition to the Hardy series. Directed by George B. Seitz
- 12.15 American Football: Red 42 (7.10)
- 12.50 Channel 4 Racing from Sandown Park. Brough Scott introduces live coverage of the 12.55, 1.25, 2.00 (William Hill Handicap Hurdle) and 2.30 (Tingle Creek Chase) (1989, b/w).
- 2.50 Film: On the Avenue (1937, b/w). Musical romance with Dick Powell as the Broadway producer whose lampooning of a rich woman lands him in hot water. The slim plot is saved by the excellent performances from Powell and co-stars Alice Faye, Madeline Carroll, and a sparkling living Berlin score. Directed by Roy Del Ruth
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5.10 Brookside Omnibus (7.10) (Teletext)

- 5.10 Brookside Omnibus (7.10) (Teletext)
- 5.30 Right To Reply. Presented by Brian Hayes
- 7.00 The World This Week. Presented by Stuart McDonald and Michael Nicholson. Followed by Weather
- 8.00 Adventures: Transatlantica. CHOICE: Perhaps because it was made by a Frenchman, Laurent Chevalier, this first of two films about a multinational expedition across Antarctica turns out to be more personal and impressionistic than the usual exploration documentary. The broad sweep of the story, a 4,000 mile journey by dog sled which took seven months, is not neglected. There is ample coverage of the hazards of the enterprise, notably the spells of ferocious weather which trapped the team in their tents and left ice crystals hanging from their beards and eyelashes. Nor does Chevalier decline the pictorial challenge of dazzling snowscapes. But he is also alert to the possibilities of more intimate images and the small incidents which help to reveal the flavour of the six nationalities represented on the trip. The real stars, however, are often the expedition's 42 dogs, vital to the enterprise and rightly cosseted. (Teletext)
- 9.00 LA Law. Drama with the glamorous Los Angeles law firm
- 9.55 Four Seasons UK: Lip Synchrony. Animation by Richard Golezowski featuring bizarre happenings with Pleskine people. The soundtrack is supplied by alternative comedians Phil Nice and Arthur Smith
- 10.05 Red Hot and Blue. CHOICE: A rock music contribution to World Aids Day comprises an anthology of Cold War songs as you have probably never seen them performed before, murdered or refreshed according to taste. David Byrne of Talking Heads



Members of the Antarctic expedition (8.00pm)

- 11.35 The Week with Jonathan Ross. The ubiquitous Mr Ross puts in another appearance as he introduces the best clips from his shows
- 12.05am Snuggles: Tango - Dance of Death. More adventures with the incident-prone couple in this light-hearted mystery series. With Tim Field and Daytime Maxwell Reid
- 1.05 The World. Off-beat magazine hosted by Terry Christian and Amanda De Cadenet (7). Ends at 2.00

SATellite

- SKY ONE
- 6.00am Cricket: Benson & Hedges World Series. England v New Zealand from Adelaide 7.15 Cricket Highlights 7.45 Fun Factory 11.00 The New Reporters 12.00 Beyond 2000 1.00am Chopper Squad 2.00 WWF Wrestling Challenge 3.00 The Amazing Animals 4.00 Eight is Enough 5.00 UK Top 40 6.00 The Love Boat 7.00 News 8.00 In Living Color 8.30 Cops 9.00 Unsolved Mysteries 10.00 WWF Superstars of Wrestling 11.00 Cops 12.00 Benson & Hedges World Series 12.00 Cricket: Benson & Hedges World Series. Australia v New Zealand from Adelaide
- SKY NEWS
- 6.00am Sky News 6.30am Sky News 7.00am Sky News 7.30am Sky News 8.00am Sky News 8.30am Sky News 9.00am Sky News 9.30am Sky News 10.00am Sky News 10.30am Sky News 11.00am Sky News 11.30am Sky News 12.00am Sky News 12.30am Sky News 1.00am Sky News 1.30am Sky News 1.50am Sky News 2.00am Sky News 2.30am Sky News 3.00am Sky News 3.30am Sky News 4.00am Sky News 4.30am Sky News 5.00am Sky News 5.30am Sky News 6.00am Sky News 6.30am Sky News 7.00am Sky News 7.30am Sky News 8.00am Sky News 8.30am Sky News 9.00am Sky News 9.30am Sky News 10.00am Sky News 10.30am Sky News 11.00am Sky News 11.30am Sky News 12.00am Sky News 12.30am Sky News 1.00am Sky News 1.30am Sky News 1.50am Sky News 2.00am Sky News 2.30am Sky News 3.00am Sky News 3.30am Sky News 4.00am Sky News 4.30am Sky News 5.00am Sky News 5.30am Sky News 6.00am Sky News 6.30am Sky News 7.00am Sky News 7.30am Sky News 8.00am Sky News 8.30am Sky News 9.00am Sky News 9.30am Sky News 10.00am Sky News 10.30am Sky News 11.00am Sky News 11.30am 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BBC 1

- 8.45 Through the Garden Gate. Dennis Camer pays a visit to a herb nursery (r)
- 9.15 Celtic Culture. Rosemary Harthall visits Underneath in the first programme of a new series exploring Celtic Christian sites in the northeast of England
- 10.00 A Vous la France Lesson (an of a French for beginners course (r). Wales to 12.30) See You Sunday 10.25 España Viva. Yolanda Vazquez introduces the series on Spain and the Spanish language (r)
- 10.50 You and 92. David Taverne and Alan Watson explore the effects of the single European market on communities in Britain (r)
- 11.25 A Way with Numbers. Carol Vorderman with more fun ways to improve your maths 11.50 Help Your Child With Reading. Advice from Maggie Philbin on helping children with reading (r)
- 12.05 See Hear! Magazine programme for the hearing impaired
- 12.30 Country File. John Craven with a report from Scotland on the Red Deer Commission for the humane culling of up to 50,000 because of the prospect in case a severe winter leaves to hundreds of thousands of deer starving to death. Western Farming in Wales 12.55 Weather
- 1.00 News with Maura Stuart followed by On the Record. Jonathan Dimbleby reports on the American public's reaction to a possible war in the Gulf 2.00 EastEnders. Omnibus edition (r). (Ceebs)
- 3.00 Snooker. The penultimate session of the Stormont UK championship final, from the Guild Hall, Preston, introduced by David Vine.

BBC 2

- 7.30 King Rollo. Cartoon (r) 7.35 Playdays (r) 7.55 Is That a Fact? The legend of Prince Llewellyn's Faithful Hound (r) 8.10 Pinocchio. Animated tales
- 8.30 Movable Feasts. Multi-faith drama for children 8.45 Little Bets. Cartoon fun about posies in an enchanted forest
- 9.10 Corners. Sophie Aldred, Stephen John and Jo Knepper answer young viewers' questions (r) 9.30 Dungeons and Dragons (r)
- 9.55 Blue Peter Omnibus (r) 10.40 Maid Marian and Her Merry Men (r) 11.10 Boxpops. Music, television clips and viewers' voxpops (r) 11.50 The O-Zone
- 12.00 Regional reviews of the parliamentary week. Wales: See Hear; Northern Ireland: Raw
- 12.30 Scrutiny. A look at the work of MPs in Committee. (Ceebs)
- 1.00 Film: Captains Courageous (1937, b/w). A rich boy (Freddie Bartholomew) falls over the side of an ocean liner and is rescued by a small fishing boat. Spoiler: Tracy finds him down to size and then teaches him a few things about life as a peasant boy based on a Rudyard Kipling novel. Tracy won an Oscar for his performance. With Lionel Barrymore and Mickey Rooney. Directed by Victor Fleming
- 2.50 Animation Now. Cartoon about a boy who finds a magic tale
- 3.00 Film: Local Hero (1983). CHOICE: Bill Forsyth's Gregory's Girl directed this latter-day Ealing comedy about an American oil company coming up against the canny inhabitants of a Scottish fishing village where it is trying to build a refinery. Superbly cast, with strong affinities with Ealing's Whisky Galore



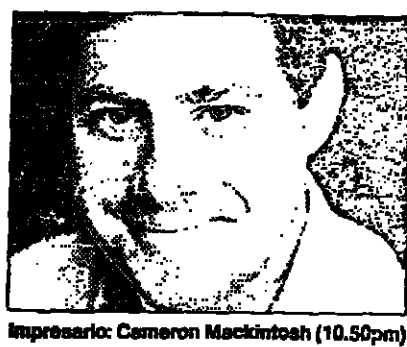
Scottish refinement: Fulton Mackay (3.00pm)

- 4.50 The Clothes Show. Including a look at a Manchester bank company and what the best-dressed dogs will be wearing this winter. Plus news of the Clothes Show model competition. Presented by Selma Scott with Jeff Banks, Caryn Franklin and Sheryl Simms
- 5.15 Schofield's Europe. Philip Schofield takes a balloon trip over the Alps, visits Russia's controversial Fox House, explores the best and worst in Swiss music and relaxes at the Montreux Jazz Festival. (Ceebs)
- 5.45 The Chronicles of Narnia: The Silver Chair. Jill and Eustace, together with Puddleglum the Marsh-wiggle, face dragons, giants and the mysterious Green Lady in part three of C.S. Lewis's classic children's tale. (Ceebs)
- 6.15 Sun Cruise. More maths without tears, including a look at its use in nursing, such as for taking pulses, blood pressure and temperatures. (Ceebs)
- 6.25 News with Maura Stuart. Weather 6.40 Songs of Praise. The work of the Children's Society is highlighted in this candle-lit Christmas service from All Souls Church, Langham Place. Presented by Martin Bashir. (Ceebs)
- 7.15 You Rang M'Lord? Su Pollard, Paul Shane and Jeffrey Holland provide more capers above and below stairs in the Medium residence, where George has an illicit engagement with Lady Agatha. (Ceebs)
- 8.05 Snooker. Further coverage of the final of the Stormont UK championship from the Guild Hall, Preston, introduced by David Vine. With commentary by Ted Lowe, Jack Karrenm and Clive Everton
- 9.00 House of Cards. Ian Richardson in superb form as the double-dealing chief whip Francis Urquhart in part three of Andrew Davies's brilliant serial based on the novel by the former Thatcher advisor, Michael Dobbs. Thanks to Urquhart's subversive wit, the prime minister's position looks precarious, but political journalist Martin Sion (Susanah Harter) suspects a frame-up (Ceebs)
- 10.00 News with Michael Buerk. Weather 10.15 Everyman: Killing Priests is Good News. CHOICE: The title of this report from the dreadful civil war in El Salvador reflects the barbaric nature of the human race in spite of the most persuasive evidence to the contrary. The ten-year-old conflict started as a protest by the poor against the concentration of land in a handful of families. The armed forces, handsomely subsidised by the United States, have sided with the landowners. The Roman Catholic church has sided with the poor and been branded as Marxist. Worse, there have been regular atrocities against the cloth. This film is being shown on the tenth anniversary of the rape and murder of four American churchwomen by the national guard. It tells the stories of three individuals, the brother of a murdered nun, a priest who narrowly escaped death and an American Jesuit from the Bronx who has decided to make El Salvador his mission. Snooker: The final of the Stormont UK Championship from Preston
- 12.05am Clean State. Should Muslim children in Britain be educated in separate schools? (r)
- 12.35 Matchbook. Episode 29 (r) 1.15 Weather

ITV LONDON

- 8.00 TV-am includes, at 8.05, Frost on Sunday
- 9.25 The Disney Club. Cartoon fun
- 10.45 Line. Peter White talks to Professor John Hull a blind but successful academic at Birmingham University
- 11.00 Advent Meditation. The first of a series of Advent meditations presented by Frank White
- 12.00 The Human Factor. Looks at the life and work of Charles Mackay, an accomplished pianist and self-proclaimed "son of the sun". He spends much of his time spreading his own brand of Christianity with an infectious enthusiasm
- 12.30 LWT News Weekend
- 1.00 News with Nicholas Owen. Weather 1.10 Walden. Brian Walden interviews the deputy leader of the Labour party, Roy Hattersley
- 2.00 The Tunnel. The story of the planning and building of the Channel tunnel
- 2.55 The Match. Live coverage of the first division game at Highbury between Arsenal, smarting from their heavy home defeat midweek against Manchester United, and Liverpool, who have dropped their first home game of the season. The commentator is Brian Moore
- 5.05 Sunday Sunday. Gloria Hunniford's guests are Jean Bont, Ned Sherrin, Rick Martin and Kenny Rogers. The crabs are David, Jameson and model Denise Lewis
- 6.00 The River Thames. Continuing the series which examines the history of London's river. This week includes a look at the creation of the Thames Barrier

- 6.30 News with Nicholas Owen. Weather 6.35 LWT News and weather 6.40 Highway. Sir Harry Secombe spends Advent Sunday in the Vale of Evesham
- 7.15 Coronation Street: The First Episode (b/w). Thirty years ago the programme began life as a local drama serial. It was transmitted live in the north for six months until 1961, when the rest of the country started seeing the saga. In the first episode, Florie Lindley settles in at the shop and gets to know her neighbours, including the feuding Tanners, Ken Barlow with his romantic troubles and the formidable Ena Sharples
- 7.50 It'll Be Alright On the Night. Denis Norden presents another in the series of cutting room floor
- 8.50 News with Nicholas Owen. Weather 9.05 LWT Weather
- 9.10 Come Home Charlie And Face Them. Episode two of Alan Owen's polished period drama based on the novel by R.F. Delderfield. Charlie and Delphine are drawn to each other - but for very different reasons. Bored by treatment he receives at the bank she goes into a plan to rob it. (Oracle)
- 10.25 Sporting Image. As one of the country's top puppets bites the dust and a new rubber double moves into the premier position
- 10.50 The South Bank Show. CHOICE: With four hit musicals from Cats to Miss Saigon in the West End, and more than 40 productions running throughout the world, Cameron Mackintosh can claim to be the theatre's most successful impresario. Daniel Wiles's profile follows the usual South Bank Show format of an



Impresario: Cameron Mackintosh (10.50pm)

interview between the subject and Melvyn Bragg, filled out with comments from colleagues and clips from the shows. A theatre critic provides the sole note of dissent, suggesting that Mackintosh did a disastrous juggling job on Southem's *Fakes*. Otherwise it is a mainly laudatory study of a man who forebore his future career by calling himself Darryl F. Mackintosh while still at school. The early years are the most interesting, distinguished by his first flop including a disastrous stage version of *The Cakes* until the arrival of *Arts Centre* money for a revival of *My Fair Lady* set Mackintosh on the way to the top

11.55 Comics. The Ninth Art. Series on the history of comics

12.30 Frank Sinatra. The voice. The career of Frank Sinatra is traced through an extravaganza of song

1.30 The Time Tunnel. Pirates of Dead Man's Island

2.30 Pick of the Week presented by Debbie Greenwood

3.00 Inky Cartoons

4.05 Portrait of America. West Virginia travelogue

5.00 ITN Morning News. Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

- 8.00 Transworld Sport (r)
- 7.00 Pet World. Outlets with John Wilson explores the relationship between people and their pets
- 7.30 Once upon a Time... Life. Cartoon series exploring the different functions of the human body (r) 8.00 Dennis. The mischievous cartoon character Dennis creates more mayhem 8.30 Bobobobs. Animated adventures 9.00 Early Bird
- 9.25 Orientations. This week's edition examines the future of Hong Kong's avant-garde theatre
- 10.00 A Week in Politics - Second Reading. Includes European politicians with advice on Europe for Mr Major
- 10.45 Dennis. Cartoon 11.00 Owl TV. Investigates how hundreds of swans are damaged by fishing tackle (r) 11.30 Ginn Tales. Rick Mayall with the story of *Angels in America* (r) 11.45 The Astrology Show
- 12.00 The Waltons 11.00 Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea. Vintage science fiction series
- 2.00 Four-Matons UK. Quartet. A four-part musical work by Clive Watley in which the animation is created by using an abstract painting and changing it bit by bit. Followed by What Song. A haunting elegy to the whole population created by Gerald Conn; and Out to Lunch. Leona Anson Workshop presents a story warning women against men who take up too much space
- 2.45 A Clean Sweep (1953, b/w). Short comedy film starring Thora Hird as a woman trying to keep her family of gamblers and spendthrifts in check. Also stars Eric Barker and Pat Fraser. Directed by Malcolm Rogers

- 3.20 Four-Matons UK: Big World Animators. Second of two documentaries shot at last year's Bristol Festival, looking at the career of Mark Baker. Followed by The Three Kings. A full-scale production of Baker's *Annex Grand Prix* winner about a hill-top farming family, and Cabaret. Animated humanoids perform death-defying feats
- 4.15 Neil King Cole Show (b/w).
- 4.45 Answering Back. Mary Gauding talks to Michael Cheek, director general of the BBC, about the implications of the Broadcasting Bill
- 5.30 News summary and weather followed by Road to Avonlea. The adventures of ten-year-old Sara Stanley in her new Canadian home town
- 6.30 The Cosby Show



Feeling the squeeze: paint industry (7.00pm)

- 7.00 Equinox: The Gold Rush - Paint's Green Revolution. CHOICE: A documentary on the paint industry starts almost like a promotional film, extolling the virtues of paint for decoration and preservation, but then turns to the environmental specialists businesses alongside giants such as ICI and unceremoniously recording advances in quick drying and smooth finish. As it suddenly remembers

that Equinox is supposed to be a science series, the film also offers an easy-to-follow lesson in how paint is made, dissecting the essential trinity of resin, pigment and solvent. After the commercial break the tone becomes sharper as the film tackles health and environmental concerns. Paint, it seems, can not only pollute the atmosphere but cause cancer and brain damage. But "green" paint is likely to be so expensive that it could mean the end of those little family businesses that provide the industry with variety and not a little eccentricity

8.00 American Football. The featured game is the Philadelphia Eagles at the Buffalo Bills

9.30 Four-Matons UK. The State of the Art 5. A documentary showing how many young British animators take their inspiration from the surreal puppet animation pioneered in Europe. The programme includes the premiere of Andrew McQueen's *Tox*

10.00 Film: The National Health (1973) starring Donald Sinden and Jim Dale. Peter Nichols's hilarious black comedy, adapted from his play, in which a rundown NHS hospital is contrasted with the glossy world of medical soap operas. Also stars Lynn Redgrave and Eleanor Bron. Directed by Jack Gold

11.50 Four-Matons UK. The Web - an example of Gothic horror skilfully used by John Ashworth. Followed by Cornucopia. Paul Couvrea created this story of strange events in a medieval tavern. Nursery Rhymes: Nick Herbert was the creator of this animated tale - his own biography, but twisted slightly. *The Street of Crocodiles*. Quay Brothers' excursion into strange lands, this time using Polish writer Bruno Schulz. Ends at 12.55am

TV VARIATIONS

- ANGLIA
As London except: 12.30pm-1.00pm Evening News. 1.00pm-1.30pm News. 1.30pm-2.00pm The World of Gull. 2.00pm-2.30pm The World of Gull. 2.30pm-3.00pm The World of Gull. 3.00pm-3.30pm The World of Gull. 3.30pm-4.00pm The World of Gull. 4.00pm-4.30pm The World of Gull. 4.30pm-5.00pm The World of Gull. 5.00pm-5.30pm The World of Gull. 5.30pm-6.00pm The World of Gull. 6.00pm-6.30pm The World of Gull. 6.30pm-7.00pm The World of Gull. 7.00pm-7.30pm The World of Gull. 7.30pm-8.00pm The World of Gull. 8.00pm-8.30pm The World of Gull. 8.30pm-9.00pm The World of Gull. 9.00pm-9.30pm The World of Gull. 9.30pm-10.00pm The World of Gull. 10.00pm-10.30pm The World of Gull. 10.30pm-11.00pm The World of Gull. 11.00pm-11.30pm The World of Gull. 11.30pm-12.00pm The World of Gull. 12.00pm-12.30pm The World of Gull. 12.30pm-1.00pm The World of Gull. 1.00pm-1.30pm The World of Gull. 1.30pm-2.00pm The World of Gull. 2.00pm-2.30pm The World of Gull. 2.30pm-3.00pm The World of Gull. 3.00pm-3.30pm The World of 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SPORT

SUMMARY

Product of success



ANDRE Agassi (above), who leads the American challenge for the Davis Cup in Florida this weekend, is unashamedly the product of a commercial age, designed, built and packaged to sell things to the youth of America.

But, as his victory in the ATP Tour finals in Frankfurt last month demonstrated, there is more to Agassi than a gaudy public image. Andrew Longmore, Tennis Correspondent, considers a player who must be taken seriously. Page 32

RACING

Selling point

THE Jockey Club called on the Tote yesterday to consider buying the 1,600-strong William Hill betting shop chain if it is offered for sale by the troubled Brent Walker group. The financial plight of the sport might be greatly improved if Britain's second largest bookmaking group were to come under Tote control. Page 34

SKIING

Snow start



PETRA Kronberger (above), of Austria, begins her defence of the women's World Cup at Val Zoldana, in Italy, today. Her greatest rival is likely to be her compatriot, Anita Wachter, the double Olympic champion. Page 32

CRICKET

New guard

JOHN Morris replaced Alec Stewart in the England team to play New Zealand in the World Series Cup in Adelaide today. Morris scored 63 as England beat the Australian Cricket Academy yesterday. Report. Page 32

RUGBY UNION

Board view

THE International Rugby Football Board, under pressure from the Rugby Football Union, has been forced to backtrack on the decision, taken six weeks ago, which outlined how players could capitalise on their sporting fame. Report. Page 32

GOLF

High flier



GREG Norman (above) scored the first albatross of his career with a two at a par five 575-yard hole in the Australian Open yesterday. He finished the day with a two-round total of 138 to lead the field by two strokes. Page 32

ATHLETICS

Running past

OXFORD and Cambridge compete in the one hundredth University cross country race on Wimbledon Common today. Chris Brasher and Christopher Chataway, both past winners for Oxford, are running in a special old Blues race to commemorate the centenary. Page 36

Liverpool may suffer the Arsenal backlash

By CLIVE WHITE

AS JOHN Major, Chelsea's best known supporter, might reflect: a week is a long time in football. It must seem so to Arsenal. In the past few days their own hopes of leadership have risen and fallen dramatically, their Rumbelows Cup misery threatening to run over into the League.

The week will seem even longer should Arsenal recover their poise to beat Liverpool in tomorrow's championship showdown at Highbury. It is not a prospect anticipated by many after the mauling they received from Manchester United on Wednesday. But Terry Venables, who admits to a vested interest in an Arsenal victory over the runaway leaders, firmly believes that Arsenal could be as dangerous as a wounded tiger.

"Their pride will have been hurt badly. We've always worried about the repercussions when Liverpool lose a game. Now it might work in reverse," he said.

Of course, his Tottenham Hotspur team, who are in third place, have almost as much to gain as Arsenal should Liverpool suffer their first League defeat of the season. Provided they win at Chelsea today, by the end of the weekend Tottenham could find themselves six points off the pace and reason enough to dream.

No one knows better than Venables how George Graham, the Arsenal manager, will respond to this week's humiliation. Their friendship goes back to the mid-1960s when they played together in the same Chelsea side. In much later years, Graham served under Venables as a player and then coach at Crystal Palace. Venables was even best man at Graham's wedding.

"I know George well. There will be certain goals and things which happened against United about which he will not be happy. These things happen, when you lose a bad goal and try too hard to pull it back too quickly. You leave yourself open. They got over-excited when they recovered to 2-3.

"The fact is you will see a different Arsenal on Sunday. They'll play more cautiously. George will get the defence in order. They've already proved that it's a good defence. They'll be even more professional though I don't expect them to play with five at the back," Venables said.

What some people did not appreciate, Venables felt, was that Wednesday's game was a crucible. When they were three goals behind, Arsenal were obliged to chase the game. There was no point in them cutting their losses as they might have done in a League match or play with their normal reserve.

Venables expected the match against Liverpool to be played in a markedly different atmosphere of caution. "It's going to be a very tight game until there is a goal. Neither team will want to give too much away. That's what happened with us for 40 minutes when we played Liverpool recently. We had the edge on them, in my opinion, and the first goal was all important. I still don't know how that game would have gone if we hadn't conceded that goal. That's my frustration," Venables said.

Searching for an Achilles heel in



My way: George Graham tells Arsenal players how to get Manchester United out of their system

the Liverpool side is usually a favourite, useless pastime of opposition managers. Some may feel that Niall Quinn uncovered such a weakness with his aerial dominance for Manchester City over Liverpool last Saturday, but Venables disagreed. At 6ft 4in, the former Gunner, Venables believes, had a head start on most defences.

"I think they can handle aerial work as well as anyone. Indeed, I think Hysen, for instance, is better equipped to handle the English game than the Italian one with little fast fella's nipping around. Swedes are naturally good athletes. Gillespie, Nicol, Burrows, and Ablett can all do that job competently enough. I don't think there's an aerial weakness in the general sense, but there might be an aerial weakness under pressure, like that which Crystal Palace subjected them to in last season's FA Cup.

"When they're not happy, Liverpool tend to back off on to their goalkeeper. I saw that in the semi-final when Grobbelaar was having to come through players to collect the ball. They blamed him for having a bad game, but his natural instinct is to go towards the ball, and he had so many

TOP OF TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Liverpool	14	12	2	0	32	8	26
Arsenal	14	10	4	0	27	8	22
Tottenham	14	8	5	1	25	11	19
Crystal Palace	14	7	6	1	22	14	17
Leeds United	14	6	8	0	23	15	13
Manchester City	14	6	2	6	23	20	13
Manchester United	14	6	3	5	19	17	13

* Spots deducted † 1pt deducted

people on top of him." Every Arsenal supporter cherishes the memory of the Michael Thomas goal at Anfield two seasons ago which clinched the championship from under the noses of Liverpool. But how many can recall Arsenal's first goal, by Alan Smith? It was another example, Venables said, of Liverpool's fallibility under pressure.

"The action ended up very close to goal and Smith, on a free kick, got a little flick. If they had kept him further out it wouldn't even have reached the goal, never mind scored. When the Liverpool defence is filled with uncertainty, it backs off instead of holding its line. That might be nit-picking because they're certainly a good side," he said.

If Arsenal need to be as good as they were two seasons ago to overhaul Liverpool again, then they can rest easy, according to

Venables. "I think the present side compares very favourably with the one which took the championship. The absence of Rocastle might have made some difference but then Linpar has given them something that they didn't have before. I think Seaman is a good addition to the squad, never mind what happened on Wednesday," he said.

It does seem strange, though, that considering Venables gave Graham his grounding in coaching, the Arsenal manager, while assuming some of Venables's qualities, should have adopted a quite different philosophy on how the game should be played. Arsenal are as introvert as Tottenham, their great rivals, are extrovert. But Venables is respectful of the side which Graham has assembled at Highbury. Despite the club suffering the heaviest defeat at home in 69 years, he does not expect the team to be subjected to the kind of major reshuffling seen in government recently.

"It's a good squad, a good side with good players," he said. "For what they want to do, it's the sort of squad George would like. I think he's happy with it."

Arsenal's burden, page 33

Minister's move will be a boost for school sport

By JOHN GOODBODY

IN A surprising but welcome move Robert Atkins, the minister for sport, has been switched from the environment department to the Department of Education and Science. The prime minister, John Major, whose interest in cricket and football is well known, has made the change because he wants to develop sport among youngsters and feels this can be better achieved within the education department.

Atkins, who is an old friend of the prime minister, said yesterday that he was delighted, as he will be working with Kenneth Clarke, who is also a sports enthusiast. "The move will allow me to develop closer and stronger links between sporting activity and young people, an area which is of particular interest and concern," he said. "The job will now encompass an involvement with the development of physical education in schools at all levels."

The preliminary report of the government's working party on the place of physical education in state schools, and its role in the national curriculum, is due later this month.

Atkins believes that there are not enough team games played during the time allotted to physical education in schools. Given his background of cricket and football at Highbury, his membership of MCC and Lancashire County Cricket Club and his enthusiasm for rugby union, this is not surprising.

However, it runs counter to the thinking of Elizabeth Murdoch, a member of the government's working party for the curriculum, who believes that although team games are valuable there is still a bias in their favour and this will have to change in the 1990s.

The move completes a full circle for the office of minister for sport. When Lord Hailsham took on the post in 1964 it was as part of the education department. When De-

nis Howell was the incumbent it eventually moved to the department of housing and local government, which later became the environment department, and has remained there until this latest move.

Peter Lawson, the secretary of the Central Council for Physical Recreation (CCPR), which represents the national governing bodies, welcomed the move.

"It is a gut feeling on the part of the prime minister and Atkins to do this," he said. "I'm sure they are keen on sport for young people and I am absolutely in favour of it. We cannot afford to lose a generation because of the decline of sport in our schools."

He said that sport had suffered from the machinery of government, with sport in schools being part of the Department of Education and Science whereas outside the school it had previously been the responsibility of the environment department.

However, he pointed out that the move would create problems because the Department of the Environment is still responsible for access to the countryside and the pollution of rivers, both of which concern sport.

He said that he looked forward with confidence to Atkins now being promoted to minister of state and eventually to cabinet level.

Lawson said that Atkins's first task on Monday, when he will take up the appointment (although the rest of his department will not move for about a fortnight), will be to see how many physical education staff have been lost because of financial cutbacks in recent years.

This, Lawson said, had greatly handicapped the development of not only school sport but also of British sport.

CCPR conference, page 36

Coach insists players need extra pressure

By PETER BILLS

DICK Best, the London coach, yesterday came to the defence of rugby union's divisional championship. He believes that the divisional tournament, which starts today and continues over the next two weekends, is an essential part of the English programme.

"The games are a step up in standard and they provide more of the pressure that the top players are going to have to get used to," he said.

"I know that we have had league games through the autumn but when the pressure is on, some players start to struggle. They don't want to keep going, it is easier to drop out. This goes back to the take-it-or-leave-it attitude

which used to be around in English rugby and is still in the back of some people's minds. But if we want to compete with the New Zealanders and Australians that attitude is not good enough."

Best's comment follows the suggestions of Richard Hill, the Bath and England scrum half, that leading players would benefit more from a rest rather than face the additional pressures of divisional rugby after the busy programme of league games.

But Best disagrees: "It is very easy for Richard to assume he is a certainty in the England team but to my mind the top players should keep going out and proving it."

North send-off, page 34

Land of the Rising Cricket Ball

AFTER all the heady success of the England cricket team this year, order has been restored, and we are free once again to make jokes about English cricket. For example: do you think they would have a chance against Japan? Loughborough College has just announced that they will be sending a team out there next autumn to play in Kobe, Yokohama and Shizuoka.

The Japan Cricket Association has been a member of the International Cricket Conference since last year. The association has also established the Trans-Pacific Friendship Cup, also known as the Coupe de Cricket de l'Amitie Transpacifique, and it will be contested for the first time in Noumea, New Caledonia in January: already this sounds like the cricket fixture of the year.

Naturally, Japanese cricket began as an expat game and was played chiefly in the port cities of Kobe and Yokohama. The first reported game was in 1865 and the players wore sidearms because of the political tensions of the time. A cricket ground in Yokohama, banned to Japanese, was the cause of a diplomatic incident in 1910. However, since these days the Japanese have begun to play, intrigued by "the intellectual and tactical aspects", as a letter to *The Times* said in 1982.

Players have adopted a new cricketing vocabulary, which includes the Geisha Glance and the Yokohama Yorker. The *Times* letter predicted a great future for Japanese cricket: "Japan is, after all, the only country with a cricket ball at the centre of its flag."

SIMON BARNES ON SATURDAY

JOHN Major, winner of one of the week's sporting contests, is, as the world knows, the youngest British prime minister since Lord Rosebery. Rosebery married a Rothschild, became PM and, in the same year, won the Derby. He then received a telegram saying "Only Heaven left". But Rosebery won the Derby twice more. Follow that, Mr Major.

MORE on Japanese sport. "We will not allow gangsters to join our clubs, nor allow them on our courses, and we will not allow people with tattoos in our showers," a pamphlet from the Council to Rid Chiba Golf Courses of Gangsters declares. Gangsters, or "tattooed men", as they are called, have been increasingly attracted to the high-status game of golf.

Police estimate that there are 90,000 gangsters in Japan. These people keep such a high profile that they even wear lapel pins to show which gang they belong to. They operate in the usual depressing areas of gambling, extortion and drugs.

Gangsters were looked on as an unavoidable evil on golf courses, but as it became clear that the courses were used for enormous gambling and murder, golf course owners in Chiba have grouped together to do something about it. They want to keep gangsters off the greens.

"Most of them drive expensive foreign cars and are surrounded by bodyguards," the pamphlet says. "They wear their hair in tight, short curls or have shaved heads and wear sunglasses. Part of the little finger on their left hand is missing. To hide their tattoos, they wear long-sleeved shirts even in summer."

MEMO to Arsenal: if you wish to erase the memory of the 6-2 home defeat by Manchester United last Wednesday in time for tomorrow's match at home against Liverpool, sprinkle the pitch with salt. That is what Romeo Anconetani is doing this weekend. He is the president of Pisa and he plans to spread 26 kilos of salt over the pitch before tomorrow's match against Cesena to exorcise evil luck. Pisa were beaten last week by Atalanta, thanks to an iffy penalty. The salt will put it all right. Anconetani says he has done it before and it works.

CONGRATULATIONS to Cambridge United. It takes courage to brave the certainty of a flood of cheap jokes. The ball for last night's match against Crewe Alexandra was sponsored for World AIDS day. The club also placed an ad in the match programme that squashed a few of the popular myths about AIDS ("Anyway", the ad says, "I'm not homosexual and I don't use drugs, so I'm OK." "Wrong, Alf...").

Several weeks have passed since this column mentioned sexual harassment in the locker-room, so here is an update. To recap, Lisa

Olson, a reporter with the Boston Herald, was allegedly harassed by four or five players from the New England Patriots. This week three of the players involved were fined a total of \$22,500 by the National Football League. There was a further \$25,000 levied against the club.

The Patriots had to pay another \$25,000 for "instructional materials on responsible dealings with the media". (I hope they will remember to forward a copy to Lord's and Lancaster Gate.) "Unquestionably, this incident has had an effect on our team and on our record," the Patriots general manager, Patrick Sullivan, said. Before the Olson incident, the Patriots had played two games and lost one. Their post-Olson record is nine defeats and no wins.

HERE is the first winner of the Team Nightmare competition. The first bottle goes to Katy Newman and I trust she will enjoy her bottle of Calém Colheitas 1957, an ambrosial tawny port. Her team is Steve Death (Reading), Harry Killin (Lincoln), Anthony Hellin (Torquay), Tommy Gore (Bury), Ken Raper (Torquay), Peter Sutcliffe (Chester), Geoff Coffin (Chester), Keith Fear (Bristol City), John Skull (Swindon), George Slabb (Bradford PA) and Keith Abbtis (Brighton). Subs: William Furness (Norwich) and James Harrower (Liverpool). Spiritual home: Google Town FC.

I have more bottles ready for more nightmare teams, to be selected on whatever grounds you wish. My senior cat was particularly impressed with the "Google Town" pay-off.

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Head goes hurdling

Barton, stable jockey to David Gandolfo for ten years,

ACHILLOUS (Alex
Blair Scheme 17-2;
an. 71, 21, T Berton.
£1.90, £3.10. OF:

Past masters return to combat

By DAVID POWELL
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

THINGS to do in a smog. When the buses have stopped, the football is off, death is in the air and the avenues of escape are closing in, the best advice is to stay at home. London's burglars and cross-country runners had something in common on the first weekend of December 1992. They ignored the advice.

Under cover of smoke-laden fog, the burglary business boomed. Meanwhile, sport was robbed of a Saturday, for the first time since it was opened in 1923, when Wembley Stadium had to cancel a fixture. On Wimbledon Common, though, athletes who thought they were harder than most were prepared to prove it.

The University cross-country race went ahead. Christopher Chataway, a faller at the Olympics some months earlier, this time kept his footing for a third successive University win. Pioneers in white tracksuits ran in relay to lead the way, seven-and-a-half miles, men in singlets unaware of a world beyond the smog which claimed some 1,500 lives. "You could just about see your hand stretched out in front of you," Chris Brasher, now race director of the London Marathon, recalled.

Today, Chataway will be on Wimbledon Common again, and so will Brasher. The hundredth University cross-country, first run in 1880 and interrupted only by the war years, is to be marked by an old Blues race.

Chataway followed Bannister, a sequence made famous by the four-minute mile but one equally applicable to the University cross-country roll of honour. Bannister was for Oxford in 1949; Chataway for Oxford, too, from 1950 to 1952. Oxford went ten years without only one defeat and are now 51-48 ahead. They expect to extend their lead today.

Simon Muggleston, having seen off one record this year, may now challenge two more. In May, he erased Bannister's historic 3min 59.4sec as an Iffley Road track record, 36 years after it was set. If he wins this time, he will equal Nick Brown's record of four in succession. More than that, "He is expected to go for a course record," Chris Daniels, the Oxford captain, said. Muggleston set the present record of 37min 07sec for the seven-and-a-half miles last winter.

Brasher's backles stand out at end of talk of records. "Stand of rubbish," he said. "Cross-country is cross-country and there is no such thing as course records. It depends entirely on the going underfoot and the weather, besides, Wimbledon



Common cause: Brasher (left) and Chataway stretch out in preparation for the old Blues cross-country race on Wimbledon Common today

Common changes all the time... trees blown down by gales and that sort of thing... it's not like the track.

With his typical influence, Brasher has had the water splash, gone since the 1950s, but back. "In my day, there was at least half a mile of plough before you entered the water, but the water splash came out. I don't know why. We've put it back in. The old Blues are insisting on it." More a trough than a splash. "Fifteen to 20 feet across and a foot to three feet deep," according to Brasher.

Today's Blues have been asked

to accept it for their race. "If the Oxford and Cambridge captains say they will not have the splash, and they are going to run over the bridge as before, then we cannot dictate, but we will do our best to persuade," John Elliott, president of Thames Hare and Hounds, organisers of the race and the world's oldest cross-country club, said.

Records may be irrelevant in Brasher's view but, in Elliott's, they have helped put an end to the raging argument of 1947. Oxford finished four in a line - T. P. E. Curry, J. F. Pollard, G. Ridding

and N. M. Green. Sandy Duncan and Harold Abrahams, two leading voices of the day, argued whether such contrivance was honourable. "Stacking-off just was not done in university cross-country running," Elliott said.

A dozen years have passed since the last tie. "There seems to have been more concentration on records," Elliott added. Muggleston's time last winter improved by four seconds the record set by Richard Nerurkar, who became English champion three years earlier.

Not until well into the 1900s did

cross-country achieve full Blue, rather than half-Blue, status. A women's race has been held only since 1976. This year will see another change: there are to be trophies for the first time, sponsored by Framlington and Thames Hare and Hounds.

Even one of the Cambridge camp said this week that Muggleston would win. How poignant. When the first University cross-country was run, it was A. F. Herniman, of Keble College, who led the way. Muggleston, too, is of Keble. And nothing, not even a smog, seems likely to stop him.

Loutish behaviour forcing referees to give up football

By JOHN GOODBODY

AT LEAST 4,500 football referees give up every season, with most of them citing the attitude of the players and general indiscipline as the main reason for leaving the sport.

Several speakers on the last day of the annual conference of the Central Council for Physical Recreation (CCPR) at Bournemouth yesterday said that it was not just the players who were to blame. Much trouble was also caused by parents, who questioned decisions and sometimes even assaulted officials.

Alan Robinson, an officer of the referees' association, said that the situation was getting serious, for there are only 25,500 referees and the number of clubs is growing.

He said: "More people are wanting to play than ever before. There are now more than 80,000 clubs. You can see, that with 25,500 referees, the difficulties that we have in ensuring that all matches have proper officials."

Robinson, who refereed the 1986 FA Cup final and is a member of the FIFA panel, said one reason for the problem was the resentment of authority in society at large.

However, he was gratified to see that in a recent survey of referees only seven per cent gave inadequate money as their reason for giving up the sport.

Robinson added that there were 300 assaults on referees every season but he praised the FA, which had banned some players for life for serious attacks. "That has helped us," he said.

He regretted the example of many foreign players in the World Cup but praised the behaviour of England, who received the Fair Play Trophy at the tournament.

Robinson urged football ref-



CONFERENCE

crees not to live in "watertight boxes" but to fraternise with the teams, as is commonplace in rugby union. However, Don Rutherford, the Rugby Football Union, said that sometimes players came off a pitch and then verbally abused the referee. "This is why we have extended the regulations to the clubhouse and grounds."

Both "Buzzer" Haddingham, a former chairman of the All England club, and Roy Rogers, a leading athletics official, also knew of some parents who had caused difficulties in their sports. Haddingham quoted one official as saying the reason that he liked veterans' tournaments was because there were no parents watching the matches.

In a debate on the countryside and environment issues, Marion Shorrock, author of *This Land Is Our Land*, appealed for the "right to roam" on much of privately-owned farmland. She said that with the political interest in the environment at its height, this was a good moment to press for access to the countryside.

Her fellow speaker, Chris Bonington, chairman of the British Mountaineering Council, called for a partnership between the various interested parties because of the need to preserve the limited resources of the countryside. Otherwise, he forecast, there would be conflict.

SWIMMING

Fibbens is sick and not a little hurt

ENGLAND face a hard task at today's Four Nations Sprint contest, with last-minute withdrawals weakening the squad of 12 (Craig Lord writes).

Mike Fibbens, Grant Robins and Samantha Purvis, all experienced internationals, will not compete because of illness, although Fibbens, of Barnet Copthall, admits that poor spirits after not being selected for next month's world championships have played a part in his withdrawal from the sprint meeting, which will inaugurate the new Central Baths at Wolverhampton.

"I'm disheartened about the world championships," Fibbens said. "At the moment, I feel if they can't afford to take me to Perth [Australia] in January, they can't afford to have me in Wolverhampton. I've not been too well this week and that's tipped the balance."

All but one of the England team competing today also missed selection for Perth by narrow margins but will be seeking to give themselves a boost by helping to secure a home victory over France, Germany and The Netherlands.

GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

3.0 unless stated

FOOTBALL

Barclays League

First division

Aston Villa v Sheffield Utd

Chelsea v Tottenham (all tickets)

Leeds United v Southampton

Manchester City v QPR

Nottingham Forest v Luton

Sunderland v Derby County

Second division

Bristol City v Charlton

Leicester v Newcastle

Millwall v Bristol R

Oldham v Brighton

Port Vale v Plymouth

Sheff Wed v Notts Co

Swindon v Blackpool

Wolverhampton v Barnsley

West Ham v WBA

Wolves v Ipswich

Third division

Bolton v Tranmere

Doncaster v Aldershot

Exeter v Stock

Grimsby v Mansfield

Reading v Shrewsbury

Rotherham v Scunthorpe

Swansea v Birmingham

Wigan v Bury

Fourth division

Burnley v Cardiff

Charterhouse v Gillingham

Doncaster v Aldershot

Exeter v Stock

Grimsby v Mansfield

Reading v Shrewsbury

Rotherham v Scunthorpe

Swansea v Birmingham

Wigan v Bury

FA Vauxhall Conference

Altrincham v Cheltenham

Grays v Northwich

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Monthly performance figures show value of £100 based on offer to offer prices without income re-invested and ranking within sector. Yearly figures are based on offer to bid prices with income re-invested. — Unit trust was founded within the last year. †PEP scheme available. Source: *Finstat*.

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Companies	129.03	137.44	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31	141.31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Index	Start	End	Open	High	Low	Close	Volume	Open	High	Low	Close	Volume
S&P 500	11/27	11/28	3915.50	3930.00	3910.00	3925.00	1,850.1	11/27	11/28	11/29	11/30	1,850.1
Dow Jones	11/27	11/28	9425.00	9450.00	9420.00	9440.00	79.4	11/27	11/28	11/29	11/30	79.4
NASDAQ	11/27	11/28	3227.00	3232.00	3222.00	3230.00	184.4	11/27	11/28	11/29	11/30	184.4
FTSE 100	11/27	11/28	6450.00	6460.00	6440.00	6455.00	10.1	11/27	11/28	11/29	11/30	10.1
DAX	11/27	11/28	12230.00	12240.00	12220.00	12235.00	70.1	11/27	11/28	11/29	11/30	70.1
Nikkei 225	11/27	11/28	20412.00	20420.00	20400.00	20415.00	722.0	11/27	11/28	11/29	11/30	722.0
Hong Kong	11/27	11/28	22510.00	22520.00	22500.00	22515.00	582.0	11/27	11/28	11/29	11/30	582.0
Shanghai	11/27	11/28	3047.00	3050.00	3040.00	3045.00	77.1	11/27	11/28	11/29	11/30	77.1
Hang Seng	11/27	11/28	2427.00	2430.00	2420.00	2425.00	71.2	11/27	11/28	11/29	11/30	71.2
ASX 200	11/27	11/28	3915.00	3920.00	3910.00	3915.00	185.0	11/27	11/28	11/29	11/30	185.0
EURO STOXX 50	11/27	11/28	3915.00	3920.00	3910.00	3915.00	185.0	11/27	11/28	11/29	11/30	185.0
IBEX 35	11/27	11/28	9425.00	9450.00	9420.00	9440.00	79.4	11/27	11/28	11/29	11/30	79.4
FTSE MIB	11/27	11/28	3227.00	3232.00	3222.00	3230.00	184.4	11/27	11/28	11/29	11/30	184.4
FTSEuro Stoxx 50	11/27	11/28	6450.00	6460.00	6440.00	6455.00	10.1	11/27	11/28	11/29	11/30	10.1
FTSEuro Stoxx 50	11/27	11/28	12230.00	12240.00	12220.00	12235.00	70.1	11/27	11/28	11/29	11/30	70.1
FTSEuro Stoxx 50	11/27	11/28	20412.00	20420.00	20400.00	20415.00	722.0	11/27	11/28	11/29	11/30	722.0
FTSEuro Stoxx 50	11/27	11/28	22510.00	22520.00	22500.00	22515.00	582.0	11/27	11/28	11/29	11/30	582.0
FTSEuro Stoxx 50	11/27	11/28	3047.00	3050.00	3040.00	3045.00	77.1	11/27	11/28	11/29	11/30	77.1
FTSEuro Stoxx 50	11/27	11/28	2427.00	2430.00	2420.00	2425.00	71.2	11/27	11/28	11/29	11/30	71.2
FTSEuro Stoxx 50	11/27	11/28	3915.00	3920.00	3910.00	3915.00	185.0	11/27	11/28	11/29	11/30	185.0
FTSEuro Stoxx 50	11/27	11/28	9425.00	9450.00	9420.00	9440.00	79.4	11/27	11/28	11/29	11/30	79.4
FTSEuro Stoxx 50	11/27	11/28	3227.00	3232.00	3222.00	3230.00	184.4	11/27	11/28	11/29	11/30	184.4
FTSEuro Stoxx 50	11/27	11/28	6450.00	6460.00	6440.00	6455.00	10.1	11/27	11/28	11/29	11/30	10.1
FTSEuro Stoxx 50	11/27	11/28	12230.00	12240.00	12220.00	12235.00	70.1	11/27	11/28	11/29	11/30	70.1
FTSEuro Stoxx 50	11/27	11/28	20412.00	20420.00	20400.00	20415.00	722.0	11/27	11/28	11/29	11/30	722.0

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China	40,830	53,235	68.2	65	15.5
India	38,230	47,300	80.8	77.3	3.5
United States	37,000	47,300	78.2	77.3	0.9
Germany	31,000	31,735	97.6	94	3.6
Japan	29,800	34,275	86.7	84.5	2.2
France	26,950	27,190	99.1	97.3	1.8
United Kingdom	26,950	27,190	99.1	97.3	1.8
Canada	26,950	27,190	99.1	97.3	1.8
Italy	26,950	27,190	99.1	97.3	1.8
Spain	26,950	27,190	99.1	97.3	1.8
Sweden	26,950	27,190	99.1	97.3	1.8
Switzerland	26,950	27,190	99.1	97.3	1.8
Belgium	26,950	27,190	99.1	97.3	1.8
Netherlands	26,950	27,190	99.1	97.3	1.8
Australia	26,950	27,190	99.1	97.3	1.8
New Zealand	26,950	27,190	99.1	97.3	1.8
South Africa	26,950	27,190	99.1	97.3	1.8
Argentina	26,950	27,190	99.1	97.3	1.8
Brazil	26,950	27,190	99.1	97.3	1.8
Chile	26,950	27,190	99.1	97.3	1.8
Colombia	26,950	27,190	99.1	97.3	1.8
Costa Rica	26,950	27,190	99.1	97.3	1.8
Cuba	26,950	27,190	99.1	97.3	1.8
Czech Republic	26,950	27,190	99.1	97.3	1.8
Denmark	26,950	27,190	99.1	97.3	1.8
Egypt	26,950	27,190	99.1	97.3	1.8
Finland	26,950	27,190	99.1	97.3	1.8
Greece	26,950	27,190	99.1	97.3	1.8
Hong Kong	26,950	27,190	99.1	97.3	1.8
Hungary	26,950	27,190	99.1	97.3	1.8
Iceland	26,950	27,190	99.1	97.3	1.8
Ireland	26,950	27,190	99.1	97.3	1.8
Israel	26,950	27,190	99.1	97.3	1.8
Italy	26,950	27,190	99.1	97.3	1.8
Japan	26,950	27,190	99.1	97.3	1.8
Korea	26,950	27,190	99.1	97.3	1.8
Latvia	26,950	27,190	99.1	97.3	1.8
Lithuania	26,950	27,190	99.1	97.3	1.8
Malaysia	26,950	27,190	99.1	97.3	1.8
Malta	26,950	27,190	99.1	97.3	1.8
Mexico	26,950	27,190	99.1	97.3	1.8
Moldova	26,950	27,190	99.1	97.3	1.8
Monaco	26,950	27,190	99.1	97.3	1.8
Morocco	26,950	27,190	99.1	97.3	1.8
Norway	26,950	27,190	99.1	97.3	1.8
Poland	26,950	27,190	99.1	97.3	1.8
Portugal	26,950	27,190	99.1	97.3	1.8
Romania	26,950	27,190	99.1	97.3	1.8
Russia	26,950	27,190	99.1	97.3	1.8
Saudi Arabia	26,950	27,190	99.1	97.3	1.8
Senegal	26,950	27,190	99.1	97.3	1.8
Singapore	26,950	27,190	99.1	97.3	1.8
Slovakia	26,950	27,190	99.1	97.3	1.8
Slovenia	26,950	27,190	99.1	97.3	1.8
South Korea	26,950	27,190	99.1	97.3	1.8
Spain	26,950	27,190	99.1	97.3	1.8
Sweden	26,950	27,190	99.1	97.3	1.8
Switzerland	26,950	27,190	99.1	97.3	1.8
Taiwan	26,950	27,190	99.1	97.3	1.8
Tanzania	26,950	27,190	99.1	97.3	1.8
Togo	26,950	27,190	99.1	97.3	1.8

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Japan Jan Sales		24.13	25.80	91.7	15	75.9	7
Other Average Totals		-	-	98.1	75	98.9	73
FAR EAST INCLUDING JAPAN							
East Pacific	27.03	28.90	93.4	20	54.5	49	
West Pacific	33.76	35.90	92.0	35	50.7	39	
Japan	24.13	25.80	91.7	15	50.7	39	
Other Far East	19.47	19.87	93.1	24	58.4	41	
East Pacific	128.1	129.1	98.5	101	74.8	152	
West Pacific	121.4	127.9	98.0	102	80.2	157	
Japan	62.8	67.0	97.0	70.5	74.8		
Other Far East	67.4	102.6	98.6	147	70.3		
East Pacific	97.8	97.3	95.9	151	81.1	121	
West Pacific	195.2	203.5	96	183	126.2		
Japan	93.5	98.2	95.3	70.1	73.0		
Other Far East	117.8	125.1	97.4	107	78.6	100	
East Pacific	111.1	117.0	95.8	114	89.1	50	
West Pacific	82.5	97.4	98.9	158	78.5	126	
Japan	67.4	67.4	97.0	70.5	74.8		

on Broadway	94.65	89.94	91.2	65	57.8	63		
on Park Ave	94.65	89.94	91.2	65	62.1	6		
on 42nd St East	94.65	89.94	91.2	65	62.1	6		
on 42nd St West	94.65	89.94	91.2	65	62.1	6		
on Pacific Side	95.49	90.33	91.6	61	65.8	12		
on East 6th	95.49	90.33	91.6	61	65.8	12		
on East 7th	95.49	90.33	91.6	61	65.8	12		
on East 8th	95.49	90.33	91.6	61	65.8	12		
on East 9th	95.49	90.33	91.6	61	65.8	12		
on East 10th	95.49	90.33	91.6	61	65.8	12		
on East 11th	95.49	90.33	91.6	61	65.8	12		
on East 12th	95.49	90.33	91.6	61	65.8	12		
on East 13th	95.49	90.33	91.6	61	65.8	12		
on East 14th	95.49	90.33	91.6	61	65.8	12		
on East 15th	95.49	90.33	91.6	61	65.8	12		
on East 16th	95.49	90.33	91.6	61	65.8	12		
on East 17th	95.49	90.33	91.6	61	65.8	12		
on East 18th	95.49	90.33	91.6	61	65.8	12		
on East 19th	95.49	90.33	91.6	61	65.8	12		
on East 20th	95.49	90.33	91.6	61	65.8	12		
on East 21st	95.49	90.33	91.6	61	65.8	12		
on East 22nd	95.49	90.33	91.6	61	65.8	12		
on East 23rd	95.49	90.33	91.6	61	65.8	12		
on East 24th	95.49	90.33	91.6	61	65.8	12		
on East 25th	95.49	90.33	91.6	61	65.8	12		
on East 26th	95.49	90.33	91.6	61	65.8	12		
on East 27th	95.49	90.33	91.6	61	65.8	12		
on East 28th	95.49	90.33	91.6	61	65.8	12		
on East 29th	95.49	90.33	91.6	61	65.8	12		
on East 30th	95.49	90.33	91.6	61	65.8	12		
on East 31st	95.49	90.33	91.6	61	65.8	12		
on East 32nd	95.49	90.33	91.6	61	65.8	12		
on East 33rd	95.49	90.33	91.6	61	65.8	12		
on East 34th	95.49	90.33	91.6	61	65.8	12		
on East 35th	95.49	90.33	91.6	61	65.8	12		
on East 36th	95.49	90.33	91.6	61	65.8	12		
on East 37th	95.49	90.33	91.6	61	65.8	12		
on East 38th	95.49	90.33	91.6	61	65.8	12		
on East 39th	95.49	90.33	91.6	61	65.8	12		
on East 40th	95.49	90.33	91.6	61	65.8	12		
on East 41st	95.49	90.33	91.6	61	65.8	12		
on East 42nd	95.49	90.33	91.6	61	65.8	12		
on East 43rd	95.49	90.33	91.6	61	65.8	12		
on East 44th	95.49	90.33	91.6	61	65.8	12		
on East 45th	95.49	90.33	91.6	61	65.8	12		
on East 46th	95.49	90.33	91.6	61	65.8	12		
on East 47th	95.49	90.33	91.6	61	65.8	12		
on East 48th	95.49	90.33	91.6	61	65.8	12		
on East 49th	95.49	90.33	91.6	61	65.8	12		
on East 50th	95.49	90.33	91.6	61	65.8	12		
on East 51st	95.49	90.33	91.6	61	65.8	12		
on East 52nd	95.49	90.33	91.6	61	65.8	12		
on East 53rd	95.49	90.33	91.6	61	65.8	12		
on East 54th	95.49	90.33	91.6	61	65.8	12		
on East 55th	95.49	90.33	91.6	61	65.8	12		
on East 56th	95.49	90.33	91.6	61	65.8	12		
on East 57th	95.49	90.33	91.6	61	65.8	12		
on East 58th	95.49	90.33	91.6	61	65.8	12		
on East 59th	95.49	90.33	91.6	61	65.8	12		
on East 60th	95.49	90.33	91.6	61	65.8	12		
on East 61st	95.49	90.33	91.6	61	65.8	12		
on East 62nd	95.49	90.33	91.6	61	65.8	12		
on East 63rd	95.49	90.33	91.6	61	65.8	12		
on East 64th	95.49	90.33	91.6	61	65.8	12		
on East 65th	95.49	90.33	91.6	61	65.8	12		
on East 66th	95.49	90.33	91.6	61	65.8	12		
on East 67th	95.49	90.33	91.6	61	65.8	12		
on East 68th	95.49	90.33	91.6	61	65.8	12		
on East 69th	95.49	90.33	91.6	61	65.8	12		
on East 70th	95.49	90.33	91.6	61	65.8	12		
on East 71st	95.49	90.33	91.6	61	65.8	12		
on East 72nd	95.49	90.33	91.6	61	65.8	12		
on East 73rd	95.49	90.33	91.6	61	65.8	12		
on East 74th	95.49	90.33	91.6	61	65.8	12		
on East 75th	95.49	90.33	91.6	61	65.8	12		
on East 76th	95.49	90.33	91.6	61	65.8	12		
on East 77th	95.49	90.33	91.6	61	65.8	12		
on East 78th	95.49	90.33	91.6	61	65.8	12		
on East 79th	95.49	90.33	91.6	61	65.8	12		
on East 80th	95.49	90.33	91.6	61	65.8	12		
on East 81st	95.49	90.33	91.6	61	65.8	12		
on East 82nd	95.49	90.33	91.6	61	65.8	12		
on East 83rd	95.49	90.33	91.6	61	65.8	12		
on East 84th	95.49	90.33	91.6	61	65.8	12		
on East 85th	95.49	90.33	91.6	61	65.8	12		
on East 86th	95.49	90.33	91.6	61	65.8	12		
on East 87th	95.49	90.33	91.6	61	65.8	12		
on East 88th	95.49	90.33	91.6	61	65.8	12		
on East 89th	95.49	90.33	91.6	61	65.8	12		
on East 90th	95.49	90.33	91.6	61	65.8	12		
on East 91st	95.49	90.33	91.6	61	65.8	12		
on East 92nd	95.49	90.33	91.6	61	65.8	12		
on East 93rd	95.49	90.33	91.6	61	65.8	12		
on East 94th	95.49	90.33	91.6	61	65.8	12		
on East 95th	95.49	90.33	91.6	61	65.8	12		
on East 96th	95.49	90.33	91.6	61	65.8	12		
on East 97th	95.49	90.33	91.6	61	65.8	12		
on East 98th	95.49	90.33	91.6	61	65.8	12		
on East 99th	95.49	90.33	91.6	61	65.8	12		
on East 100th	95.49	90.33	91.6	61	65.8	12		

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FAR EAST EXCLUDING JAPAN				
Aspen Pacific	94.38	100.4	94.3	73.2
Aspen East Coast	97.71	104.9	94.2	55.3
East Coast	95.47	102.6	94.1	58.1
Mid Pacific	90.84	98.2	91.5	58.6
West Dragon Gate	92.05	99.72	97.1	58.1
Paycom	31.25	128.9	100.5	88.1
Paycom	66.6	100.8	100.6	82.7
Paycom	47.72	95.9	94.9	80.0
Paycom	97.3	102.5	101.7	78.6
Paycom	22.81	122.4	104.3	97.3
Paycom	26.89	104.2	100.0	87.7
Regency Balanced 52	23.03	106.8	99.9	87.0
Regency	22.81	102.5	101.7	78.6
Robinson Intl Trust Mongol	26.0	104.2	99.1	75.6
Rt East Asia	26.84	105.3	98.7	74.5

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My New Year Pacific	130.2	128.2	56.4	7	59.2	16
Time Tapes	109.52	115.74	10.4	7	56.2	20
Earl Goss	15.12	16.16				
Earl Tiger Ace	30.1	30.1		5	51.1	34
My New Year	13.50	14.25	9.3	28	83.0	2
My Singapore & Mal	57.23	55.17	24.1	23	60.2	10
Ear Average/Total			54.2	41	76.1	35
AUSTRALIA						
Target Australia	475.2	492.2	16.0	25	83.0	49
Target Japan	475.2	492.2	16.0	25	83.0	49
Target Hongkong	147.5	152.3	10.7	15	59.9	39
Target Malaysia	163.7	164.0	10.6	4	67.5	62
Target India	109.2	115.1	10.1	14	61.4	54
Target Ceylon	94.8	95.3	0.5	10	50.0	40
UK (L) 1984 A Plan	100.0	100.0				
UK (L) 1984 B Plan	128.5	134.5	10.0	17	72.4	34
UK (L) 1984 C Plan	98.8	98.5	95.5	122	60.3	126
UK (L) 1984 D Plan	126.7	143.8	10.0	16	67.3	35

AUSTRALASIA					
Wes Ltd Australia	89.88	85.67	94.1	11	58.8 0
Wes Australia	45.86	33.46	55.2	8	81.4 0
Wes Australia	92.34	54.86	66.5	7	64.5 2
Windsor Ltd (Australia) Wags	254.1	214.3	115.8	15	84.4 125
Windsor Real Estate Wags	47.13	48.6	55.5	15	85.4 125
Windsor Life Investor	223.3	235.1	98.2	161	75.5 126
Zurich UK Wags	103.8	100.1	104.8	4	63.5 18
Sector Average/Total			595.6	176	84.9 168

Profits at Asprey dip to £11.9m

PROFITS at Asprey, the Bond Street jeweller that owns Mappin & Webb and Garrard, fell from £12.3 million to £11.9 million pre-tax in the six months to end-September. But Asprey denies that its customers are feeling the pinch. Nick Harrington, the company secretary, says the group had a spectacular first half last year, with profits leaping 50 per cent after one or two special orders.

Turnover is £1 million lower than a year ago, at £42 million, but compares favourably with the £30 million the year before. Earnings slipped from 10.4p to 9.1p, but the interim dividend is held at 1.1p. The figures include six weeks from Mappin & Webb, but there is no breakdown.

Tops falls 40%

Pre-tax profits at Tops Estates fell by 40 per cent to £1.1 million in the six months to September. However, when £1 million of one-off residential sales in 1989 are stripped out, first-half profits are significantly higher.

The net interest charge at the town centre retail specialist rose 12 per cent to £3.1 million. An interim dividend of 0.5p a share will be paid.

Northern buys

Northern Foods has bought Falconis, which makes French bread, for £21.4 million. Falconis supplies Marks and Spencer and other retailers, hotels and airlines in the Southeast.

Christopher Haskins, Northern's chairman, said: "The strong growth of our existing sandwich and speciality bread businesses has convinced us this is an area with very exciting potential." For the year to end-June, Falconis made pre-tax profits of £2.9 million on sales of £38.7 million.

Cadbury deal

Cadbury Schweppes has bought Fafel, the bottler of Tri-Naranjus drink in Portugal, for £12 million cash, having bought the Tri-Naranjus brand in October 1989.

Cadbury said the cash sum was subject to an adjustment based on the completion balance sheet; £10.6 million was payable on completion.

Wyndham loss

Wyndham Group, the Cardiff motor distribution and property group, suffered pre-tax losses of £909,000 in the six months to end-September, against £1.45 million profits last year. Losses per share were 13.09p, against earnings of 20.05p. There is no interim dividend (2p a share).

Punishment 'a warning' to electricity privatisation applicants

Two jailed for share fraud

By ROSS TIEMAN

A BRIGHTON landlord and a former barrister have been jailed for two-and-a-half years and 18 months respectively for making multiple share applications in government privatisations. They were also ordered to pay £257,000 in fines.

Judge Robin Laurie, passing sentence at Southwark Crown Court yesterday, indicated that the punishments should serve as a warning to those subscribing for shares in the government's £52 billion offer for sale of the 12 electricity supply companies, which closes on Wednesday.

He said: "It seems to me that the sentences of this court must be on a level to make clear... that ordinary decent people in this country will not stand for this."

"I make that comment knowing that at the present time another privatisation is under way."

Judge Laurie said that the multiple share applications, made by "persistent fraudster" Michael Row, aged 41, a landlord, were "the worst case

ever to come before any court". His sentence is the stiffest handed down for such offences.

Row had conspired with Jonathan Roberts, aged 36, a former Chancery Division barrister and others, to obtain shares in the 1984 privatisation of British Telecom by deception, in breach of the Criminal Law Act. Both had denied the charge.

They made more than 500 applications, using false names and addresses, for a total of 266,000 shares. An

accounting record kept by Row, entitled *The Great BT Saga*, was discovered in a sack in the loft of a property owned by Roberts.

Roberts, of Peaslake, near Guildford, Surrey, had pleaded guilty to criminal deception under the Theft Act in obtaining shares in the British Gas, British Airways, and Rolls-Royce privatisations.

Row, of Windlesham Road, Brighton, East Sussex, was found guilty of criminal deception under the Theft Act in obtaining shares in six

privatisation issues and the TSB Group. He was also convicted under the Criminal Attempts Act of seeking shares in Cambridge Instruments.

The court heard that Row had made estimated profits of £200,000, while Roberts had made £80,000. Roberts had net assets of £1.5 million, while Row was worth £250,000 "on a very conservative estimate".

Judge Laurie said the offences took place before courts were granted powers to confiscate the proceeds of fraud, so fines must reflect the gains.

Row was jailed for 12 months for his part in the BT deception and received a consecutive sentence, totalling 12 months, for seven other offences. A further consecutive sentence of six months was imposed because he applied for BAA shares after the Appeal Court said that those convicted of making multiple applications would put their liberty at risk.

Row was also fined a total of £157,000, with further prison terms should be default, and ordered to pay £26,000 costs.

Roberts was jailed for 12 months for his part in the BT conspiracy. Running concurrently with that are three consecutive six-month sentences for his other offences, making 18 months in all.

He was fined £100,000, with further prison terms for any default, and ordered to pay £30,000 costs.

'Industry' that led to prison

MICHAEL Row, the Brighton landlord sentenced to a two-and-a-half year jail term yesterday for the worst case of multiple share applications to date, ran his fraudulent activities like a "minor industry" (Ross Tieman writes).

He made 3,300 applications for shares in eight privatisations, rather than the eight that he was legally entitled to make, Judge Robin Laurie said.

Row told Southwark Crown Court that he had not bought shares before 1984, when British Telecom was offered for sale.

The government, he said, "threw money on the pavement", adding even after he had been convicted of fraud: "I do not see why I should be prosecuted for picking it up."

Row conspired with Jonathan Roberts, a barrister turned property conveyancer and speculator, and others, to profit by staging the issue through multiple applications.

They applied for 262,000 shares at the part-paid price of 50p. According to records kept by Row, in a volume entitled *The Great BT Saga*, they averaged a profit of 38p a share, making £90,475.

Row devoted great time, energy and skill to the endeavour. He used the addresses of his 18 rented properties, his friends, and even post office boxes to make 500 applications for parcels of 200 and 400 BT shares.

Names were picked at random from a telephone directory. Row opened 16 stock-broking accounts to ease disposal of the shares. Roberts made 21 applications.

Their share-staging ring dissolved after the BT issue, and the introduction of a warning in subsequent privatisation prospectuses that multiple applications were illegal. Roberts, described in court

as "a barrack room lawyer suffering from some legal knowledge, but not enough", decided the law could be circumvented by the use of a discretionary trust to apply for shares. Both men drew up trust deeds, and used them to make multiple applications for subsequent privatisations.

Judge Laurie held the trusts to be "a complete nonsense".

Row's greed drove him to stage eight more issues. He made 1,097 applications for British Gas shares, and borrowed £100,000 to make 168 applications during the British Airways offer. Judge Laurie estimated Row's total profits from multiple applications at £200,000.

Roberts used more than 50 addresses, many of them

properties he owned, sending in cheques drawn on more than 20 bank and building society accounts, to stage the privatisations of British Gas, British Airways and Rolls-Royce. Altogether, his profits amounted to £80,000.

Both men fell foul of accountants hired to police the issues by cross-checking names and addresses of applicants by computer. Their "fuzzy-matching" technique led to Row and Roberts being arrested by fraud squad detectives in December 1987.

Handing down sentences yesterday, the judge said Row was "a wealthy individual by any standards", with assets conservatively estimated at £250,000.

Yet he possessed an "utter contempt for ordinary decent people", and was wholly unrepentant. Roberts, who received an 18-month sentence, had net assets of £1.5 million. Both men have, however, been the victims of their own greed. Roberts claimed to have lost all his profits on subsequent, ill-judged share transactions. Row said he faced losses of £150,000 after speculating in the gold market through UBS Phillips & Drew, the stockbroker.

Control Techniques in £9.8m cash call



Expanding abroad: Trevor Wheatley, Control Techniques chairman, yesterday

By MARTIN BARROW

CONTROL Techniques, the motion picture process control specialist, has announced a heavily discounted rights issue to raise £9.8 million.

Shareholders are offered one new share for every four held at 170p a share, against yesterday's opening price of 223p. News of the issue, which is fully underwritten by SG Warburg, left existing shares 15p lower at 208p.

Part of the proceeds of the rights issue will fund the acquisition of Dr Henschen, a privately owned German control instrumentation maker, for DM7.15 million cash.

The company also announced a 68 per cent increase in taxable profits to £7.4 million for the year to end-September, and earnings 20 per cent higher at 20p a share. A final dividend of 4.35p makes 6.5p (5.5p) for the year.

The rest of the rights issue will help repay a portion of existing borrowings of £4.81 million.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Burmah Castrol bid for Foseco extended

BURMAH Castrol's bid of 275p a share in cash for Foseco, the speciality chemicals group, attracted acceptances of just 0.9 per cent of the issued capital by the first closing date. Burmah acquired 14.6 per cent of Foseco in the market after the bid in October and now speaks for 15.5 per cent. The offer, which values Foseco at £237 million, has been extended until December 13. Foseco shares closed unchanged at 280p. Burmah shares rose 1p to 459p.

Vistec falls to £78,000

INTERIM pre-tax profits at Vistec Group, the USM quoted computer services company, have slumped 93 per cent to £78,000 from last year's £1.1 million for the six months to end-October. Sales from the continuing businesses increased from £13.5 million to £13.9 million. There is no interim dividend.

Pembridge in £2.35m sale

WOLSTENHOLME Rink, the Lancashire printing materials manufacturer, has acquired Printing Supplies & Equipment, which sells products to the offset litho printing industry, from Pembridge Investments for about £2.35 million. PS&E made pre-tax profits of £186,000 in the year to end-December 1989.

Albrighton tumbles

ALBRIGHTON, the building products company that began as a sweet maker, has confirmed its September profit warning, reporting a £257,000 pre-tax loss for the six months to end-September.

The deficit for the period was struck after £338,000 exceptional provisions for redundancies, and compares with a £127,000 profit for the same period in 1989. An operating profit of £1.1 million compares with £259,000 last year. Peter Woodman, the chairman, said the company had temporarily abandoned its acquisition strategy.

Interim drop at Stoddard

STODDARD Sekers, Scottish manufacturer of carpets and furnishing fabrics, had taxable profits down 13 per cent to £1.01 million, against £1.16 million, for the six months to end-September, on turnover 5 per cent lower at £20.6 million. Earnings were down 13 per cent to 1.3p. The interim dividend remains at 0.55p.

Arlen lifts turnover 35%

ARLEN, the electrical accessories group which merged with Highland Electronics this year, lifted interim pre-tax profits to £453,000 (£302,000) to end-September. Turnover grew 35 per cent to £13.4 million (£9.92 million). Earnings per share fell from 1.81p to 0.64p. There is an interim dividend of 0.5p (nil).

Alphameric cuts losses

ALPHAMERIC, the information systems and keyboard manufacturer, which has been reorganised and restructured, has trimmed pre-tax losses from £2.54 million to £1.21 million in the six months to end-September.

Turnover fell from £12.3 million to £6.93 million, largely due to disposals. About 28 per cent of the group's business is overseas and this is expected to continue rising. The loss per share is 1.2p (4.3p loss). There is no dividend. There was an extraordinary loss of £538,000, representing the effect of the planned closure of the group's American operation.

Edbro shares fall 25p

SHARES in Edbro, the Bolton manufacturer of tipping hoists for trucks and trailers, truck bodies and skip loaders, fell 25p to 78p after the company cut its interim dividend following a profit slump.

Pre-tax profits were down 85 per cent to £300,000 (£2 million) to end-September, on sales down 19 per cent to £13.9 million (£17.1 million). The market for tippers ranging from 3.5 to 17 tonnes was down by 31 per cent, while the market for bigger tippers, from 24 to 38 tonnes, suffered a 61 per cent decline. The interim dividend has been cut from 3p to 1p, after earnings per share plunged from 16p to 2p. The company said: "The slump in UK demand seems likely to continue well into 1991."

UNLISTED SECURITIES

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	1989	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	1988	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield
114	114	114	ATA Select	114	114	114	114	114	114	114	114	114	114	114	114	114	114	114	114	114
115	115	115	ATA Select	115	115	115	115	115	115	115	115	115	115	115	115	115	115	115	115	115
116	116	116	ATA Select	116	116	116	116	116	116	116	116	116	116	116	116	116	116	116	116	116
117	117	117	ATA Select	117	117	117	117	117	117	117	117	117	117	117	117	117	117	117	117	117
118	118	118	ATA Select	118	118	118	118	118	118	118	118	118	118	118	118	118	118	118	118	118
119	119	119	ATA Select	119	119	119	119	119	119	119	119	119	119	119	119	119	119	119	119	119
120	120	120	ATA Select	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
121	121	121	ATA Select	121	121	121	121	121	121	121	121	121	121	121	121	121	121	121	121	121
122	122	122	ATA Select	122	122	122	122	122	122	122	122	122	122	122	122	122	122	122	122	122
123	123	123	ATA Select	123	123	123	123	123	123	123	123	123	123	123	123	123	123	123	123	123
124	124	124	ATA Select	124	124	124	124	124	124	124	124	124	124	124	124	124	124	124	124	124
125	125	125	ATA Select	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125
126	126	126	ATA Select	126	126	126	126	126	126	126	126	126	126	126	126	126	126	126	126	126
127	127	127	ATA Select	127	127	127	127	127	127	127	127	127	127	127	127	127	127	127	127	127
128	128	128	ATA Select	128	128	128	128	128	128	128	128	128	128	128	128	128	128	128	128	128
129	129	129	ATA Select	129	129	129	129	129	129	129	129	129	129	129	129	129	129	129	129	129
130	130	130	ATA Select	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

1990										1990										1990									
High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	1989	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	1988	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield										
131	131	ATA Select	131	131	131	131	131	131	ATA Select	131	131	131	131	131	131	ATA Select	131	131	131										
132	132	ATA Select	132	132	132	132	132	132	ATA Select	132	132	132	132	132	132	ATA Select	132	132	132										
133	133	ATA Select	133	133	133	133	133	133	ATA Select	133	133	133	133	133	133	ATA Select	133	133	133										
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Portfolio

PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page daily. Add these prices to your running total for the week and check this against the weekly dividend figure on this page. If it matches this figure, you have won enough of a share of the total weekly prize money to claim. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card and available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Code	Wk
1	Alcan (UK)	Aluminium	AL	
2	Alcan (UK)	Aluminium	AL	
3	Alcan (UK)	Aluminium	AL	
4	Alcan (UK)	Aluminium	AL	
5	Alcan (UK)	Aluminium	AL	
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48	Alcan (UK)	Aluminium	AL	
49	Alcan (UK)	Aluminium	AL	
50	Alcan (UK)	Aluminium	AL	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in today's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

There were no valid claims for the Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. The £2,000 will be added to Monday's competition.

BRITISH FUNDS

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%

UNDATED

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%

INDEX-LINKED

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%

ELECTRICALS

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%

BREWERIES

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%

BUILDING, ROADS

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%

FINANCE, LAND

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%

FOODS

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%

DRAPERY, STORES

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%

HOTELS, CATERERS

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%

INDUSTRIALS A-D

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%

INDUSTRIALS E-K

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%

INDUSTRIALS L-Z

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%

INDUSTRIALS A-D

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%

INDUSTRIALS E-K

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%

INDUSTRIALS L-Z

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%

INDUSTRIALS A-D

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%

INDUSTRIALS E-K

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%

INDUSTRIALS L-Z

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%

INDUSTRIALS A-D

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%

INDUSTRIALS E-K

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%

INDUSTRIALS L-Z

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%

INDUSTRIALS A-D

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%

INDUSTRIALS E-K

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%

INDUSTRIALS A-D

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%

INDUSTRIALS E-K

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%

INDUSTRIALS L-Z

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%

INDUSTRIALS A-D

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%

INDUSTRIALS E-K

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%

INDUSTRIALS L-Z

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%

INDUSTRIALS A-D

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%

INDUSTRIALS E-K

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%

INDUSTRIALS L-Z

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%

INDUSTRIALS A-D

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%

INDUSTRIALS E-K

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%

INDUSTRIALS A-D

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%

INDUSTRIALS E-K

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%

INDUSTRIALS L-Z

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%

INDUSTRIALS A-D

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%

INDUSTRIALS E-K

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%

INDUSTRIALS L-Z

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%

INDUSTRIALS A-D

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%

INDUSTRIALS E-K

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%

INDUSTRIALS L-Z

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%

INDUSTRIALS A-D

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%

INDUSTRIALS E-K

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%

OVERSEAS TRADERS

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%

PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%

PROPERTY

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%

SHOES, LEATHER

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%

TEXTILES

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%

TOBACCO

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%

TRANSPORT

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%

WATER

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%

WATER

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%

WATER

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%

WATER

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Mainly firm

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began November 19. Dealings end December 7. Contango day December 10. Settlement day December 17. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

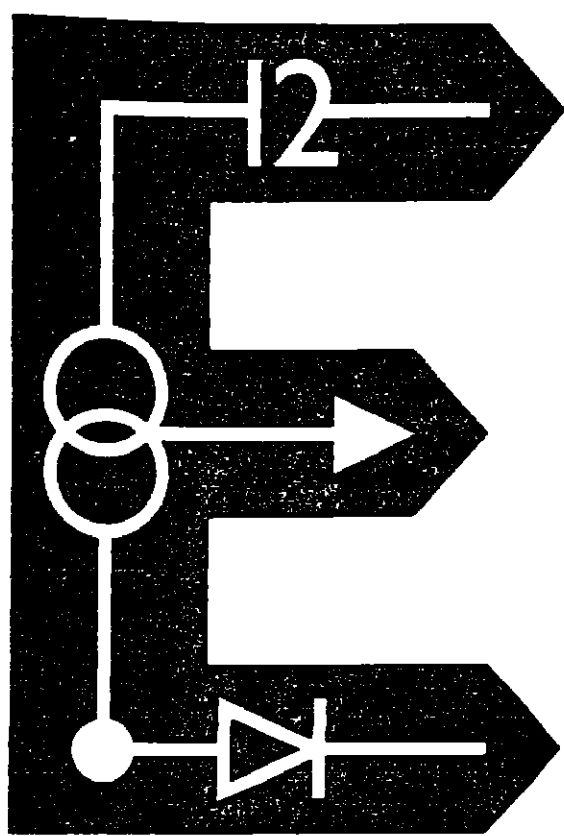
Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (as) denotes Alpha Stocks.

Portfolio

PLATINUM

© Times Newspapers Limited
WEEKLY DIVIDEND
£4,000
Claims required for +182 points
Claimants should ring 0254-53272

Ex dividend Ex as at Forecast dividend Ex interim payment passed Price at suspension of dividend and yield exclude a special payment Ex pre-emptive figures Ex Forecast earnings Ex Ex other Ex rights Ex Ex swap or share split Ex Tax-free ... No significant data.



The Regional Electricity Companies Share Offers

Eastern Electricity plc East Midlands Electricity plc London Electricity plc Manweb plc
Midlands Electricity plc Northern Electric plc NORWEB plc SEEBOARD plc Southern Electric plc
South Wales Electricity plc South Western Electricity plc Yorkshire Electricity Group plc

Offers for Sale

by
Kleinwort Benson Limited
on behalf of

The Secretary of State for Energy

HM Government is now offering for sale 100 per cent. of the ordinary share capital of each of the 12 Regional Electricity Companies of England and Wales.

The offer price of 240p per share is payable in instalments of 100p now, 70p on 22nd October 1991 and 70p on 15th September 1992.

This advertisement contains the terms and conditions of application, a guide to completing the public application form and the public application form. This advertisement does not contain any information about the Regional Electricity Companies ("RECs"). It should therefore be read in conjunction with the full Prospectus dated 21st November 1990 which alone contains approved listing particulars relating to each REC. Copies of the full Prospectus may be obtained, until the Offers for Sale close, from most clearing bank branches and post offices. In applying for shares in any REC you will be treated as applying on the basis of the information in the relevant Sections of the full Prospectus and on the terms and conditions set out below. Expressions defined in the full Prospectus have the same meaning in this advertisement. Before deciding to apply for shares you should consider carefully whether shares are a suitable investment for you. Their value can go down as well as up. If you need advice, you should consult a stockbroker, solicitor, accountant, bank manager or other professional adviser. The Council of The Stock Exchange has authorised the issue of this advertisement under Section 154(1)(b) of the Financial Services Act 1986 without approving its contents.

SHARE OFFERS AND APPLICATION AND INSTALMENT ARRANGEMENTS

(a) Share offers

The number of shares being offered in each company in the United Kingdom and overseas is:

Eastern	269,875,000	NORWEB	172,720,000
East Midlands	218,059,000	SEEBOARD	127,381,000
London	218,059,000	Southern	269,875,000
Manweb	118,745,000	South Wales	101,473,000
Midlands	209,423,000	SWEB	123,063,000
Northern	123,063,000	Yorkshire	207,264,000

(b) Applications

Applications must be received no later than 10.00 a.m. on Wednesday, 5th December 1990. The right is reserved to reject, in whole or in part, any application. Once made, applications may not be withdrawn.

(c) No multiple applications

ONLY ONE APPLICATION MAY BE MADE FOR THE BENEFIT OF ANY PERSON FOR SHARES IN ANY SINGLE REC. The only exceptions to this rule are Permitted Employee Applications (as defined in the Prospectus) which may be made by eligible employees of the RECs, NGC and EASL.

Multiple applications and suspected multiple applications are liable to be rejected.

Criminal proceedings may be instituted against anyone knowingly making or authorising more than one application for shares in any single REC, for their own benefit, or that of any other person, either solely or jointly with other persons. Under the terms and conditions, an applicant can be required to disclose to the Secretary of State or his agents any information about the application which may be requested.

(d) Allocations

The basis of allocation of the shares in each REC is expected to be announced by 5.00 p.m. on Monday, 10th December 1990. If your application for shares in any REC is successful in whole or in part, you will be sent an interim certificate for the shares allocated to you in that REC. If there is heavy demand for the shares in any particular REC, you may receive fewer shares than you apply for in that REC or, in some cases, none at all.

If your application is not accepted, all money paid will be returned (without interest). If your application is accepted in part, you will receive (without interest) a refund cheque for the balance of the money paid.

(e) Dealings

Interim certificates are expected to be despatched to successful applicants on or before Wednesday, 19th December 1990. However, dealings are expected to commence in London at 2.30 p.m. on Tuesday, 11th December 1990. Applicants who wish to sell before they

have received an interim certificate will only be able to do so if they make arrangements to deal on this basis. Applicants who deal before receipt of an interim certificate will do so at the risk of selling shares for which they have not received an allocation.

(f) Further instalments

You will be sent reminders in advance of the dates when the second and final instalments become payable. The reminders will be sent to your address on the relevant register at the time. If you do not pay any instalments for which you are liable, your right to the shares may be cancelled. If you sell your shares, the purchaser will become liable for any further instalments due (once the transfer has been registered).

(g) Overseas applicants

No person receiving a copy of this advertisement and/or an application form in any territory other than the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man may treat the same as constituting an invitation or offer to him, nor should he in any event use such application form unless, in the relevant territory, such an invitation or offer could lawfully be made to him or such form could lawfully be used without contravention by any person of any registration or other regulatory or legal requirements. It is the responsibility of any person outside the United Kingdom receiving a copy of this advertisement and/or an application form and wishing to make an application to satisfy himself as to full observance of the laws of any relevant territory in connection therewith, including the obtaining of requisite governmental or other consents or the observance of any other requisite formalities and the payment of any issue, transfer or other taxes due in such territory.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF APPLICATION

If you apply for shares in a Regional Electricity Company ("REC") you will be agreeing with the Secretary of State for Energy, Kleinwort Benson Limited, Lloyds Bank Plc, Barclays Bank Plc, National Westminster Bank Plc, The Royal Trust Company and that REC (the "Company") as set out below. If you apply for shares in more than one REC your application for shares in each REC will be treated as a separate and independent application.

Offer to purchase shares

- You offer to purchase from the Secretary of State at the Offer Price the number of shares indicated in your application (or any smaller number in respect of which your application is accepted) in the Company on these terms and conditions.
- You agree that your offer cannot be revoked prior to 12th January 1991 and promise that the cheque or draft accompanying your application will be honoured on first presentation. The Secretary of State agrees that he will not, prior to 12th January 1991, offer any of the shares in the Company to any person other than by means of one of the procedures referred to in the Prospectus. If you are an eligible customer you will be entitled to customer preference on the basis described in Part I of Chapter VI of Section I of the Prospectus. This paragraph constitutes a collateral contract between you and the Secretary of State. It becomes binding when your application is posted to, or (if delivered) is received by, a receiving bank.
- If your application form is not completed correctly, or if the accompanying cheque or draft is for the wrong amount, it may still be treated as valid. In these circumstances the Secretary of State's (or his agent's) decision as to whether to treat your application as valid, and how to construe, amend or complete it, shall be final. You will not, however, be treated as having offered to purchase more shares in the Company than is indicated in your application for shares in the Company.
- Any application may be rejected in whole or in part.

Acceptance of your offer to purchase shares

- The Secretary of State may accept your offer to purchase (if your application is received, valid, processed and not rejected) either (a) by notifying The Stock Exchange of the basis of allocation (in which case the acceptance will be on that basis) or (b) by notifying acceptance to the receiving bank which processed your application. The acceptance may be of the whole or any part of your offer and, accordingly, the number of shares in the Company you offer to purchase may be scaled down.
- If the Secretary of State accepts your offer to purchase (in whole or in part) there will be a binding contract under which you will be required to purchase the shares in respect of which your offer has been accepted if, prior to 12th January 1991, both (a) the shares in the Company which are the subject of the Combined Offers are admitted to the Official List of The Stock Exchange and (b) the UK Underwriting Agreement referred to in Part 9 of Chapter V of Section I of the Prospectus is not terminated, and the underwriting obligation under that Agreement becomes unconditional, in respect of the shares in the Company.
- You will not be entitled to exercise any remedy of rescission for innocent misrepresentation at any time after acceptance. This does not affect any other rights you may have.

Payment for the shares

- You undertake to pay the purchase price for the shares in the Company in respect of which your offer is accepted in three instalments as described in the Prospectus. The cheque or draft accompanying your application may be presented for payment before acceptance of your offer, but this will not constitute acceptance of your offer either in whole or in part. The proceeds of this presentation will be held pending acceptance and, if your offer is accepted, will be applied in discharging the first instalment, which is due upon acceptance. The second instalment is due on 22nd October 1991 and the third instalment is due on 15th September 1992 (and, in each case, for value by 3.00 p.m. on that date). Following payment in full of the purchase price the Secretary of State will arrange for the shares which you have agreed to purchase to be transferred to you. This transfer will not, however, occur before 18th August 1992.
- If your application is invalid, is rejected or is not accepted in full, or if the circumstances described in paragraph 6(a) or (b) do not occur prior to 12th January 1991, any proceeds of the cheque or draft accompanying your application (or, if your application is accepted in part, the unused balance of those proceeds) will be refunded to you without interest.

- The Secretary of State may require you to pay interest or his other resulting costs (or both) if the cheque or draft accompanying your application is not honoured on first presentation. If you are required to pay interest you will pay the amount determined by the Secretary of State or his agents to be the interest on the amount of the cheque or draft from the date of acceptance until the date of receipt of cleared funds. The rate of interest will be the then published bank base rate of a clearing bank selected by the Secretary of State plus 2 per cent. per annum. The Secretary of State may apply part of any payment received from you in paying this interest or other costs. In this event (or if the late payment is for other reasons insufficient) the remainder of the payment will be applied in paying the first instalment in respect of as many shares in the Company as possible. If the payment is in respect of the shares in more than one REC, the Secretary of State may apportion it in any manner between the shares in those RECs. Any balance of the payment remaining will be held by the Secretary of State on your behalf and may be applied in paying any other amounts due to the Secretary of State. If the Secretary of State terminates the agreement to purchase shares under paragraph 11 below and no other amounts remain due to the Secretary of State, the remaining balance will be returned to you (without interest).
- At any time until the Secretary of State has received, in cleared funds, the first instalment in respect of a share the Secretary of State may terminate the agreement to purchase that share. This termination will be effected by notice being despatched to you. In the event of termination you will pay to the Secretary of State, on demand, such amount as may be certified on his behalf as being necessary to compensate the Secretary of State for the losses, costs and expenses incurred or expected to be incurred as a result of the cheque or draft not being honoured on first presentation and as a result of termination (taking into account any amounts paid under paragraph 10 above and any profit gained on the resale of the share).
- If you receive any interim certificate in respect of the shares you have agreed to purchase before the Secretary of State has received, in cleared funds, the first instalment in respect of those shares, you shall forthwith return it to the receiving bank from which it was sent.

Instalment Agreement

- Upon receipt by the Secretary of State in cleared funds of the first instalment in respect of any share for which your offer to purchase has been accepted, you will become a party to, and will be bound by, the Instalment Agreement in respect of that share. Accordingly, from that date you will be entitled to the benefit of rights attached to that share in accordance with the terms of the Instalment Agreement. Until that date the Secretary of State will remain entitled to the benefit of all rights attached to that share. Upon your becoming a party to the Instalment Agreement in respect of any share, the obligations to pay the second and final instalments in respect of that share, and the obligation to transfer shares to you, contained in paragraph 8 above will be replaced by the corresponding obligations in the Instalment Agreement. If, at the date you become a party to the Instalment Agreement, the second or final instalment (or both) has already fallen due and has not been paid, you will be obliged to pay that or those instalments in accordance with the terms of the Instalment Agreement as if you were a "Purchaser" (as defined in the Instalment Agreement) on the due date for that or those instalments.

Incentives

- If you are eligible and your offer to purchase shares in the Company is accepted, you will be entitled to receive any incentive in relation to the Company you may have elected to receive in your application. This entitlement is governed by, and you must comply with, the requirements set out, or referred to, in Chapter VI of Section I of the Prospectus.

Warranties

- You warrant that:
 - You are not under 18 years of age on the date of your application.
 - You are not, and you are not applying on behalf of, a US or Canadian person (as defined in Part 2 of Chapter VI of Section I of the Prospectus) or an individual, corporation or entity resident in Japan.
 - If your application, together with all other applications in which you have an interest, were

accepted in full, neither you, nor any person on whose behalf you are applying, would have an interest (as defined in Article 40 of the Articles of Association of the Company) in shares representing 15 per cent. or more of the issued share capital of the Company.

- In making your application you are relying only on the Prospectus and the Mini Prospectus taken together with the Prospectus and not on any other information or representation concerning the Company or the Combined Offers. You agree that no person responsible for the Prospectus or any part of it will have any liability for any such other information or representation.

- If the laws of any place outside the United Kingdom are applicable to your application, you have complied with all such laws and none of the parties mentioned at the top of these terms and conditions will infringe any laws outside the United Kingdom as a result of the acceptance of your offer to purchase or any actions arising from your rights and obligations under these terms and conditions, the Instalment Agreement and the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company.

- If the person signing the application is not the applicant, that person warrants that he has authority to do so on behalf of the applicant and that this authority is vested in him by virtue of any power of attorney which (or a copy of which) accompanies the application.

Supply and disclosure of information

- The Secretary of State and his agents may have full access to all information relating to, or deriving from, the cheque or draft accompanying your application and its processing. If the Secretary of State or his agents request any further information about your application you must promptly disclose it to them. Upon your becoming a party to the Instalment Agreement your name(s) will be placed on the register of interim rights for the Company and, if you pay your instalments and do not transfer those rights, subsequently on its register of members. These registers are open to inspection by the public, who may take copies in return for a prescribed fee. The information supplied in, or in connection with, your application may also be disclosed to HM Government departments (and their agents) concerned with other privatisations and to members of the police forces for compiling lists of suspected multiple applicants.

No multiple applications

- You warrant that the declarations on your application form are true and correct. If they are not you may be making a multiple application. Any interim certificate or returned application monies relating to a person suspected of making a multiple application may be held (in the case of monies, without interest) pending investigation.

Miscellaneous

- All documents and any returned monies will be sent at your risk. They may be sent by post to you at the address shown on the application form. Any cheque will be made payable to you (or the first person named in any joint application).
- You agree to be bound by the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company once the shares you have agreed to purchase have been transferred to you.
- Your application, any acceptance of that application and the contract resulting therefrom will be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the laws of England. For the exclusive benefit of the parties mentioned at the top of these terms and conditions you irrevocably submit to the jurisdiction of the English courts in respect of these matters. This does not prevent an action being taken against you in any other jurisdiction.
- Reference to these terms and conditions to the Prospectus is to the full Prospectus dated 21st November 1990 containing listing particulars relating to each of the RECs. Words defined in the Prospectus have the same meanings in these terms and conditions and in your application. In the case of a joint application, references to you in these terms and conditions are to each of you and your liability is joint and several.
- Neither Kleinwort Benson Limited nor any of the banks mentioned at the top of these terms and conditions will treat you as its customer by virtue of your making an application for shares or by virtue of your offer to purchase being accepted. In particular, they will not owe you any duties or responsibilities concerning the price of the shares or concerning the suitability of shares for you.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR RETURN OF YOUR APPLICATION FORM

SEND YOUR COMPLETED APPLICATION FORM BY POST (OR TAKE IT BY HAND) TO ARRIVE NO LATER THAN 10.00 AM ON WEDNESDAY 5TH DECEMBER 1990, at the appropriate receiving bank address shown below for the company you have applied for on this form

Company	Receiving bank	Address
Eastern	National Westminster Bank PLC	Registrar's Department, PO Box No. 663, Hartcliffe, Bristol BS99 1XU
East Midlands	Barclays Bank PLC	New Issues, PO Box No. 123, Fleetway House, 25 Farringdon Street, London EC4A 4HD
London	Lloyds Bank Plc	Registrar's Department, PO Box 1994, Quayside Tower, 260 Broad Street, Birmingham B1 2HU
Manweb	Barclays Bank PLC	New Issues, PO Box No. 123, Fleetway House, 25 Farringdon Street, London EC4A 4HD
Midlands	The Royal Bank of Scotland plc	Registrar's Department, PO Box No. 7, Canning House, 19 Canning Street, Edinburgh EH3 8TE
Northern	Bank of Scotland	New Issues Department, Apex House, 9 Haddington Place, Edinburgh EH7 4AL
NORWEB	Bank of Scotland	New Issues Department, Apex House, 9 Haddington Place, Edinburgh EH7 4AL
SEEBOARD	Lloyds Bank Plc	Registrar's Department, PO Box 1994, Quayside Tower, 260 Broad Street, Birmingham B1 2HU
Southern	Lloyds Bank Plc	Registrar's Department, PO Box 1994, Quayside Tower, 260 Broad Street, Birmingham B1 2HU
South Wales	Barclays Bank PLC	New Issues, PO Box No. 123, Fleetway House, 25 Farringdon Street, London EC4A 4HD
SWEB	National Westminster Bank PLC	Registrar's Department, PO Box No. 663, Hartcliffe, Bristol BS99 1XU
Yorkshire	The Royal Bank of Scotland plc	Registrar's Department, PO Box No. 7, Canning House, 19 Canning Street, Edinburgh EH3 8TE

YOU ARE ADVISED TO USE FIRST CLASS POST AND TO ALLOW AT LEAST TWO DAYS FOR DELIVERY OR

TAKE THIS FORM BY HAND BEFORE 3.30 PM ON TUESDAY 4TH DECEMBER 1990 to any UK branch of Lloyds, Barclays, NatWest, Bank of Scotland, The Royal Bank of Scotland or Ulster Bank

OR TAKE THIS FORM BY HAND BEFORE 10.00 AM ON WEDNESDAY 5TH DECEMBER 1990 TO ANY OF THE RECEIVING CENTRES LISTED OPPOSITE

(open only for deliveries by hand)

Belfast Ulster Bank Limited, Personal Investment Unit, 88/90 High Street, Belfast	National Westminster Bank PLC, New Issues Department, 2 Princes Street, London EC2
Birmingham Lloyds Bank Plc, 125 Colmore Row, Birmingham	Barclays Bank PLC, New Fleetway House, 25 Farringdon Street, London EC4
Bristol National Westminster Bank PLC, 32 Corn Street, Bristol	Manchester National Westminster Bank PLC, 55 King Street, Manchester
Cardiff Barclays Bank PLC, 121 Queen Street, Cardiff	Newcastle Upon Tyne Bank of Scotland, 62/68 Grey Street, Newcastle Upon Tyne
Edinburgh The Royal Bank of Scotland plc, 36 St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh	Norwich Barclays Bank PLC, Bank Plain, Norwich
Exeter Lloyds Bank Plc, 234 High Street, Exeter	Nottingham Lloyds Bank Plc, Old Market Square, Nottingham
Glasgow Bank of Scotland, 110 St. Vincent Street, Glasgow	Peterborough Lloyds Bank Plc, Aragon Court, Northminster Road, Peterborough
Leeds National Westminster Bank PLC, 8 Park Row, Leeds	Plymouth Barclays Bank PLC, 19 Princess Street, Plymouth
Liverpool Barclays Bank PLC, 4 Water Street, Liverpool	Southampton Lloyds Bank Plc, 19/21 High Street, Southampton
London Lloyds Bank Plc, Registrar's Department, Issue Section, 2nd Floor, Bolsa House, 80 Cheapside, London EC2	Jersey Lloyds Bank Plc, 9 Broad Street, St. Helier, Jersey
	Guernsey National Westminster Bank PLC, 35 High Street, St. Peter Port, Guernsey

GUIDE TO COMPLETING THE PUBLIC APPLICATION FORM

- ① Put in Box 1 your full name and address (please use BLOCK CAPITALS).

Applications may not be made by anyone aged under 18, but a parent, grandparent or guardian of a child under 18 may apply for the benefit of that child. To do this, you should write your own name and address in Box 1 and put the initials of the child in the "A/C" box.

If you make an application for the benefit of a child in this way, you may also apply for shares in the same company separately for your own benefit.

If you are applying for your own benefit, please leave the "A/C" box blank. If you wish to apply jointly with another adult, please see Note 7.

- ② The names of the 12 Regional Electricity Companies are listed above Box 2. Put in Box 2 the name of the ONE company in which you wish to apply for shares on this form. Please use BLOCK CAPITALS.

- ③ Put in Box 3 (in figures) the number of shares for which you wish to apply. You may only apply for one of the numbers of shares set out below. Applications for any other number of shares will be rejected.

Number of shares for which you can apply	Amount you pay now at 100p per share	Your total payment at 240p per share
100	£100	£240.00
200	£200	£480.00
300	£300	£720.00
400	£400	£960.00
500	£500	£1,200.00
600	£600	£1,440.00
700	£700	£1,680.00
800	£800	£1,920.00
900	£900	£2,160.00
1,000	£1,000	£2,400.00
1,500	£1,500	£3,600.00
2,000	£2,000	£4,800.00
2,500	£2,500	£6,000.00
3,000	£3,000	£7,200.00

Above 3,000 shares, applications must be in the following denominations:

Applications for	in multiples of
3,000 to 5,000 shares	1,000 shares
5,000 to 50,000 shares	5,000 shares
50,000 to 100,000 shares	10,000 shares
over 100,000 shares	50,000 shares

- ④ Using the middle column of the table in Note 3, put in Box 4 (in figures) the amount you pay now for the shares applied for in Box 3.

Payment for shares is in three instalments. The second instalment of 70p per share is payable by 22nd October 1991 and the final instalment of 70p per share by 15th September 1992. Reminders will be sent in plenty of time.

- ⑤ Sign and date the form in Box 5. Please read carefully the warning below and the declaration in Box 5 before signing.

WARNING

Only one application may be made for the benefit of any person for shares in any single Regional Electricity Company. Criminal proceedings may be instituted against anyone knowingly making or authorising more than one such application, whether solely or jointly with other persons. The only exceptions are Permitted Employee Applications (as defined in the Prospectus).

If you are applying for the benefit of someone under the age of 18, you, rather than that person, must sign the application form.

The application form may be signed by someone else on your behalf who is duly authorised to do so. In this case the original of the relevant power of attorney (or a copy certified by a solicitor) must be enclosed unless the form is signed by a selling agent, financial intermediary or UK clearing bank, in which case the signatory must state the capacity in which he or she signs.

A corporation must sign under the hand of a duly authorised official, whose representative capacity must be stated.

- ⑥ Pin to Box 6 your cheque for the amount you have put in Box 4.

A separate cheque must accompany each application form. No receipt will be issued.

Your cheque must be drawn in sterling on an account at a bank branch in the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man and must bear a UK bank sort code number in the top right hand corner.

Alternatively, you may use a bankers draft, a cheque from your building society or a bank branch, or a personal cheque drawn by someone else. In each case it must meet the above requirements and you should write your full name and address on the back.

Any moneys returned will be sent by cheque crossed "Not Negotiable A/C Payee Only" in favour of the first named applicant.

- ⑦ You may apply jointly with up to three other persons aged 18 or over. They should read carefully the warning in Note 5 and the declaration in Box 5 before signing in Box 7.

The form may be signed by someone else on behalf of the joint applicant(s), as described in Note 5.

PHOTOCOPIES OF APPLICATION FORMS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED IN ANY CIRCUMSTANCES

The Secretary of State for Energy is a registered data user under the Data Protection Act 1984 and your attention is drawn to paragraph 17 of the terms and conditions.

REGIONAL ELECTRICITY COMPANIES PUBLIC APPLICATION FORM

Before completing this form, please read carefully the guide above

Please use BLOCK CAPITALS

① Title Forename(s) in full

Surname

Address

Postcode

Account designation (if any)

The 12 Regional Electricity Companies are:

EASTERN
EAST MIDLANDS
LONDON
MANWEB

MIDLANDS
NORTHERN
NORWEB
SEEBOARD

SOUTHERN
SOUTH WALES
SWEB
YORKSHIRE

- ② I offer to purchase shares in

- ③ Number of shares for which I am applying

- ④ Amount now payable

- ⑤ I make this application on and subject to the terms and conditions in the Prospectus, dated 21st November 1990. I declare that to my knowledge and/or belief this is the only application being made for my benefit (or that of any person for whose benefit I am applying) for shares in the company for which I have applied on this form, except for any Permitted Employee Application(s). I have read the warning in Note 5 of the guide above.

Signature Date 1990

- ⑥ Pin here your cheque for the amount in Box 4, payable to "Electricity Share Offers" and crossed "Not Negotiable".

- ⑦ JOINT APPLICANTS The first applicant should fill in the boxes above. Other applicants, applying jointly, should insert their names in BLOCK CAPITALS and sign in the box below.

I/We join in this application and give the declaration set out in Box 5.

Title	Forename(s) in full	Surname	Signature

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Those claiming commission (or allowance of commission) should stamp the box applicable to them:

Stamp of person claiming commission and VAT reg. no.	Stamp of financial intermediary claiming commission and VAT reg. no.
(If not registered for VAT, put "none")	(If not registered for VAT, put "none")
Acceptance no.	Shares accepted
Commission calculated	Commission calculated

Banks fail to curb errors when crediting accounts

By NICK MATHIASON

CUSTOMERS of high street banks have not noticed any radical reduction in instances of money being mistakenly credited to accounts, according to the banking ombudsman's annual report.

Complaints about account errors still accounted for 9.6 per cent of cases passed to the ombudsman, the same proportion as over the past three years.

Generally, money entering an account by mistake happens for two reasons. A salary cheque is wrongly credited, which is often the employer's fault, or a clerical error is made by the bank's own staff.

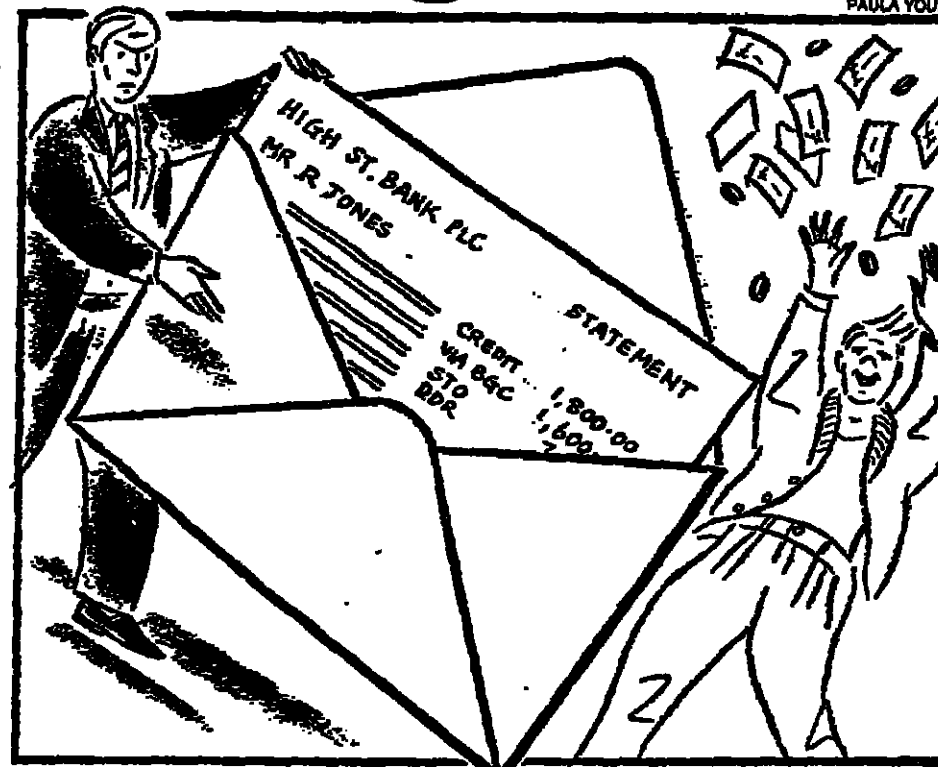
The use of computers to transfer money has greatly increased errors of this type.

Laurence Shurman, the ombudsman, said: "At the end of the day, bank staff are human beings and are prone to mistakes."

But, according to the British Bankers Association, if people fail to keep an eye on their accounts and they land in difficulties when they have to pay back money that is not theirs "that's just tough".

A spokesman said: "It just isn't their money. There are 80 million accounts in this country and the amount of mistakes are really small in comparison."

But the inconvenience caused to the public can be enormous. As one disgruntled National Westminster Bank customer said: "I received £1,543 by mistake, which is roughly equivalent to my monthly pay cheque. I didn't notice the money and it made no difference to my general lifestyle whatsoever. The bank



contacted me 93 days later saying they had made a mistake. They wanted the money back but I hadn't got it. They said it was up to me to check my account, but the bottom line is I don't see why I should pay for a bank's mistake."

This particular case has reached deadlock, although NatWest is offering to pay half the money back and waive all overdraft charges. When all negotiations between the bank and the customer have broken down, the case is taken before the ombudsman.

Jean Eaglesham, a senior researcher at the Consumer Association, said: "Money in-

appropriately credited to a customer's account doesn't happen that much, but when it does it causes major problems if people have spent the money and then face charges on the debt."

"You effectively have no rights. The legal position is that banks are acting as agents and the person is not entitled to that money under any circumstances. Banks don't ever want to admit they have made a mistake but if they clearly have, they may take a discretionary measure and it is always worth a try."

Once a case reaches the ombudsman, the customer stands

a better chance of recouping any losses because each case is judged individually. The ombudsman stresses that he is "neither a consumer champion nor the banks' lackey".

Mr Shurman said: "It is impossible to generalise on cases. There are no rules to govern this situation. All I can say is that I judge each case on its individual merits."

"For example, if my bank put an extra £1 million into my account, I would have no excuse if I booked a trip on Concorde and went round the world because I don't have a £1 million and am never likely to receive a cheque that size. But I can visualise a person being paid money into his account which does not alter his lifestyle and which he genuinely didn't notice. If the bank failed to act within a reasonable time to correct the mistake, then a judgment in favour of the client could be necessary."

In his report, Mr Shurman said that many complaints could have been avoided by better communication between bank and customer. Cost cutting measures like cashpoint machines meant that customers had fewer opportunities to talk to bank staff and obtain individual explanations for bank actions.

"What is often required is greater readiness to pick up the phone to explain the position or to invite the customer to come along to the bank and discuss it. Often that would do more to avoid a misunderstanding than a mere written communication and at the same time cement the relationship between bank and customer," he said.

The Banking Ombudsman Scheme, Annual Report 1989-90, The Office of the Banking Ombudsman, Citadel House, 5-11 Fetter Lane, London EC4.

'Make complaints clearly'

By SARA MCCONNELL

COMPLAINTS to the banking ombudsman will be dealt with more quickly if customers with a grievance make an effort to present their case clearly, Laurence Shurman said in his report.

The ombudsman suggested that customers write the complaint letter clearly, on one side of the paper only, giving a concise account of the complaint. Useful information includes details of what the customer thinks the bank has done wrong, what loss, if any, has been suffered, and what compensation they are claiming and how it is calculated.

Complaints should be brief and it is useful to send copies of documents referred to in the letter.

"We consider all complaints received no matter how poorly presented, but the better presented a complaint is initially the more speedily we can deal with it," said Mr Shurman.

The bank concerned should be the first port of call and customers should only complain to the ombudsman if



Shurman: ombudsman

they cannot solve the problem internally through the bank, he added.

However, a 45 per cent increase in complaints this year appears to indicate a continuing communication problem between banks and customers.

Cashpoint machines were again the biggest problem, attracting 12.3 per cent or 482 of the 3,915 complaints received.

Typically, customers either had their handbag stolen

containing a cashpoint card and a personal identification number (Pin) inadequately disguised in an address book, or found their card had been borrowed by a member of the family or workmate who had discovered the number. Money was then taken out of the account in a so-called "phantom withdrawal".

Mr Shurman said the banking ombudsman normally decided in favour of the bank. The small print on the back of a plastic card says the cardholder is liable for all withdrawals made on the card until he or she tells the bank the card has been lost or the Pin discovered by another user.

But liability for unauthorised spending on cash cards could be limited to the first £50 if proposals are included in a new code of banking practice to be announced next week. Such a move would be strongly supported by the ombudsman, who urged banks to adopt the £50 limit in anticipation of the code.

Banks generally support the idea of limited liability.

C&G to launch flexible Tessa

By LINDSAY COOK

THE Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society will launch a flexible tax-exempt special savings account (Tessa) next week linked to its London share account.

Customers who want to take advantage of the new scheme, which will allow savers to earn interest tax-free over a five-year period, will be requested to fill out an application. The society will then transfer up to the maximum £3,000 investment into a Tessa when the government scheme starts on January 1.

Andrew Longhurst, chief executive, said the scheme would give savers the chance to earn interest without tax being deducted on the amount in the Tessa. Currently the account pays 11.5 per cent on sums over £2,500. Without tax deducted this becomes a rate of 15.33 per cent.

Savers will receive the higher rate so long as they do not withdraw any of the original sum transferred to the Tessa during the five years. But if they do they will still receive the rate offered by the London share account.

Mr Longhurst said the scheme was designed to be flexible so that investors can take advantage straightaway of any increases in savings limits on the Tessa scheme announced in future Budgets. It allows up to £3,000 to be invested over five years.

Tessa rules have not been finalised, but investors in all Tessas will be able to transfer to other schemes without losing tax advantages if the interest rate in their own account falls below market rates.

Save & Prosper indicated the rate on its Tessa account would be 12 per cent.

Futures funds may come to pass for unit trusts

By RICHARD IRVING

volatility and affect overall fund performance.

There is also a danger that many smaller investors may not be aware of the greater risks of investing in futures and options funds.

The Securities and Investments Board is countering this criticism by including proposals that will force management groups to market their funds under one of three new risk categories.

The first will comprise the main bulk of existing unit trusts whose risk-profile will not change significantly through conservative use of futures and options.

The remaining categories, which may not even come under the unit trust banner, will distinguish between new authorised futures and options funds, which guarantee to repay the original capital and carry a lower risk rating, and so-called "highly-gear" funds that will, in the words of one observer "come with a government health warning".

Fidelity Investments, based in Boston, Massachusetts, which has more than \$115 billion in funds under management, wants the draft proposals to tackle over the counter (OTC) options. These are not traded on recognised exchanges and are therefore less liquid than other options, but they do allow fund managers to deal in longer-dated options.

"Although OTC options are indeed more illiquid than other derivatives, they can be valuable tools in the hands of an investment professional," said a Fidelity spokesman. Fidelity also wants to see the Securities and Investments Board make a distinction between the separate risks associated with buying and selling an option when dealing

limits are finally imposed. Buyers face unlimited profits against strictly limited losses, while sellers can expect only a small profit and the prospect of unlimited losses.

Some unit trust managers fear that higher-risk funds may destroy the generally held view that unit trusts offer a cheap and simple way into the world's stock markets.

But they also believe that the final proposals will provide some relief to management groups who may have been struggling to make a profit during a market slump.

John Govett, Fidelity and Guardian Royal Exchange (GRE) are all keen to develop futures and options funds and the latter is actively considering both a high-risk and a guaranteed or low-risk fund.

Jan Swan, marketing director at Guardian Royal Exchange, said: "The packaging of financial products to exploit niche demands in the market is going to become increasingly important in the future."

Mr Swan will only confirm that such funds are on his product development list.

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In the September 1990 issue of "What Investment" magazine, Murray Johnstone was rated the Top Investment Trust Manager of the Decade.*

What more could you want? Demand to find out more - please return the coupon below. You should be aware that the price of shares and the income from them may go down as well as up and past performance is not necessarily a guide to the future. Investors may not get back the amount they invested. Tax levels or relief are those currently applicable and may change. The value of any tax relief depends on the individual circumstances of the investor.

*Source: "What Investment" magazine September 1990

Murray Johnstone Limited: 7 West Nile Street Glasgow G1 2BR. Tel: 041-226 3131

To Murray Investment Trusts, FREEPOST, Glasgow G1 2BR.
Please send details of the Murray Investment Trust PEP.

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____ POSTCODE _____

MURRAY
JOHNSTONE

Credit card insurance warning

By RICHARD IRVING

CHRISTMAS shoppers and people hoping to stock up on bargains in the January sales could find themselves paying over the odds for insurance on personal loans or credit card borrowings, the Consumers' Association said.

"Borrowers should look for the best possible package before committing themselves," Jean Eaglesham, acting head of money research at the association, said.

"Many lenders require borrowers to take out a home-grown payment protection plan which can substantially increase the monthly payments on a personal loan. In many cases, premiums are added to the loan each month, so borrowers pay interest on them."

This can add significantly to the level of repayments over the term of the loan.

In a survey in September examining 40 schemes, the association found that the difference between the cheapest package and the most expensive deal on a £5,000 personal loan was more than £1,600. This takes into account the capital repayment, interest and insurance premiums.

"Our advice to borrowers contemplating insurance, is to take it out only if there will be no possibility of meeting the repayments should anything untoward happen," she said.

This may not be quite as



Overpriced: Jean Eaglesham warns people to shop around for card insurance

easy as it appears as most lenders market their protection policies on a negative option basis. This means that investors are automatically enrolled into the scheme when they originally apply for the loan, unless they specifically request otherwise.

A payment protection policy should at the very least, repay the outstanding balance if the policyholder dies, and meet monthly repayments if he or she is forced out of work, either through illness, disability

or possibly redundancy. Borrowers should look closely at the eligibility clauses that can render claims invalid.

Most insurers, for example, will reject outright any claims resulting from pregnancy, self-inflicted injuries, loss of work through alcohol or drug abuse or the recurrence of a long-standing illness. The lag time between making a claim and receiving any payment, meanwhile, can be anything from 31 days to three months.

Borrowers can also take out

payment protection schemes on credit card and store card loans, although the difference between premiums can be just as stark. A person wishing to take out insurance on an Access card through Midland Bank's cardholder protection plan, for example, can expect to pay 69p per £100 worth of cover.

This drops to 60p through Lloyds Bank's payment protection plan and to only 30p per £100 of cover through National Westminster's credit card scheme. The most expensive policy also provides the least amount of cover - a maximum of £5,000 in the event of death against £7,500 at Lloyds and at NatWest.

The circumstances under which policies pay out in the event of accident, sickness or disability also differ greatly. Under NatWest's scheme, 10 per cent of the outstanding debt is paid off each month for up to 12 months once 14 consecutive working days have been lost.

At Lloyds, a borrower must be away from work for at least 30 consecutive days and must have an outstanding balance in excess of £50 to qualify for payments, again amounting to 10 per cent of the outstanding debt per month for a maximum period of 12 months. Policies may not pay out if borrowers go over their personal credit limit.

A Barclaycard spokeswoman said that figures recently published by the social security department showed that more than one million people are too ill to work for a period of six months or more. In addition, 80,000 men between the ages of 20 and 65, who are likely to have some form of borrowing, die each year.

More than 40 per cent of Barclaycard's 8.5 million customers opt for the plan, costing 30p per £100 of cover. A spokeswoman said: "This is a remarkably low price to pay for peace of mind."

The Consumers' Association is not convinced. "Very few people need to insure their credit card loans. Monthly repayments are usually small in comparison to those on larger personal loans and many borrowers can get by for three or four months before repayments become a real problem," Ms Eaglesham said.

Lending code to fall in line with Major

By MARIA SCOTT

BANKS and building societies will promise restraint in the marketing of loans in the draft code of practice they are due to publish next Thursday.

The provisions in the code are expected to please John Major, the new prime minister, who called for them when he was Chancellor of the Exchequer. But they may not please all customers. They stop a long way short of a ban on direct mail promotions of loans.

Mr Major struck a chord with many members of the public when, in his Budget speech in March, he admonished banks for "indiscriminate" marketing of credit. He suggested the banks control this through provisions in the code of practice being drawn up in response to recommendations of the Jack report on banking law and practice. The report was commis-

sioned by the government and chaired by Professor Robert Jack.

The government has since reinforced its recommendations in a white paper on banking practice, and the code being published on Thursday will ensure recommendations from both.

The drafting, by banks and building societies, has been overseen by a committee headed by Sir George Blunden, former deputy governor of the Bank of England.

The marketing of credit is one of the more contentious areas dealt with in the code. The draft is expected to state that banks and building societies will exercise caution over who they market loans to and will take particular care in promoting them to young people "with the aim of preventing them from over committing themselves". It is

also anticipated that banks will have to tell minors that they cannot overdraw on cash card accounts.

The code is also expected to say that banks and building societies should encourage customers who are in financial difficulty to let them know immediately so that cases of hardship can be dealt with sympathetically.

Several banks and building societies protested after Mr Major's budget remarks that they did not send out mail shots to non-customers and that it was unfair to single them out when loans were also being marketed by many other institutions.

The prime minister and the Treasury are thought to have noted these protests. Banks have helped their cause by pulling back on their direct mail programmes and cutting out many of the competitions and give-aways they were using to push loans.

A consultative document being issued with the draft code is likely to recommend that the government consider tightening up advertising regulations under the Consumer Credit Act to force other lenders to observe practices similar to those promoted by the code for banks and building societies.

Another contentious area the code will deal with is customer confidentiality.

INTEREST RATES ROUND-UP

	Nominal rate	Compounded at tax rates 25% 40%	Miles/miles Investment 2	Notice	Contact
BANKS					
Ordinary Dep A/c	3.50	3.60	2.90	none/home 7 day	
Fixed Term Deposits:					
Barclays	10.13	10.13	8.10	25,000-50,000	1 mth 071-826 1587
	10.13	10.13	8.10	25,000-50,000	3 mth 071-826 1587
	9.40	9.40	7.50	2,500-no max	1 mth Local Branch
Lloyds	9.01	9.01	7.21	2,500-no max	6 mth Local Branch
Midland	9.30	9.30	7.84	10,000-no max	1 mth 071-250 2905
NatWest	9.31	9.31	7.45	10,000-no max	3 mth 071-250 2905
	8.75	8.75	7.20	10,000-24,000	1 mth 071-250 1000
	8.36	8.36	7.50	10,000-24,000	3 mth 071-250 1000

HIGH INTEREST CHEQUE ACCOUNTS					
Bank of Scotland BANC	9.47	9.50	7.92	2,500	none 031-442 7777
Barclays	9.50	9.54	7.87	2,500	none 0904 252891
Co-operative	8.00	8.20	4.98	2,500	none 071 625 6543
Ulster	8.00	8.00	6.40	1,000	none 051 969 2076
Guinness	8.50	8.50	8.01	500	none 0272 435572
Lloyds TSCA	8.50	8.77	7.02	2,000	none
Midland HCA	8.00	8.24	6.59	500	none 071-374 3374
NatWest	8.95	9.25	7.41	2,500	none 031-556 8555
Special Reserve	8.25	8.25	6.80	2,000	none 071-600 6000
Scott Pym A/c					
TSCA (England & Wales)					

BUILDING SOCIETIES					
Ordinary Share A/c	6.15	6.15	4.92	1 min	none
Best buy - largest accs:					
Britannia	9.15	9.15	7.32	250 min	none
Midland & Prov	11.50	11.50	9.20	2,500 min	none
Cheltenham & Gl	11.74	11.74	9.40	10,000 min	90 day
Birmingham Bld	12.00	12.00	9.50	25,000 min	1 year
Bristol & West					
Best buy - all accs:					
Holmesdale Bld	10.15	10.15	8.11	500 min	none
The Scarborough	11.25	11.25	9.00	10,000 min	30 day
St Philips	11.30	11.30	9.00	2,000 min	60 day
Barnsley Pymt	11.80	11.80	9.43	25,000 min	90 day
Vernon	12.00	12.00	9.80	1,000 min	6 mths

Cash/Cheque Accounts:					
Card Cash	6.00	6.00	4.80	25 min	Rates rise
Alfons & Co	6.90	6.90	5.52	500 min	with larger
Nationwide					
Anglia Flex	6.00	6.00	4.80	1 min	balances

NATIONAL SAVINGS					
Ordinary A/c	5.00	5.00	3.00	5-10,000	9 day 041-648-4555
Investment A/c	12.75	12.75	7.85	5-25,000	1 mth 041-648-4555
Income Bond	13.50	13.50	8.10	2,000-25,000	3 mth 0253 69151
Deposit Bond	13.50	13.50	8.10	2,000 min	9 day 041-648-4555
30th Issue Cert	9.50	9.50	9.50	25-1,000	4 day 081-3964901
Yearly Plan	9.50	9.50	9.50	20-200 min	14 day 081-3964900
General					
Education Refr	5.01	5.01	5.01		
Capital Bond	13.00	13.00	7.80	100-100,000	5 yrs 041-648-4555

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS					
Humber Guardian	10.40	10.40	8.84	5,000 min	1 yrs Figures from 0242 521291
Liberty Life	10.70	10.70	9.08	25,000 min	2 yrs
Consolidated Life	10.00	10.00	8.50	2,000 min	5 yrs for details
Consolidated Life	10.10	10.10	8.58	2,000 min	4 yrs 071 404 5788
Aetna	9.75	9.75	8.29	5,000 min	5 yrs for details

RPI (Oct. 90-90)	+10.5%	Holiday rates	£ buys
Bank Basic Rate	14.5%	Spanish Pesetters	181.75
Personal Loan	24.5%	French Francs	66.66
Credit Card	19.5-31%	Swiss Francs	205.36
		Italian Lire	2166.00

* 12.5% for balances below £200. First £70 of interest tax free. Interest account for withdrawal of £100 of loan. * Additional holdings up to £10,000 for investors re-investing proceeds of existing matured investments. * Tax free. * Interest taxable and gross higher rates for longer terms. * 1% for longer term.

Compiled by KAREN BUCKLEY

LARGER LENDERS

Lender	Interest Rate %	Loan Size	Max %	Notes
BUILDING SOCIETIES				
Cheltenham	12.50	£40K+	80	Rate after 1.9% reduction to 31.12.91
National Counties	13.70	£80K+	85	
0272 742211				
National & Prov.	13.50	£20K+	85	Rate after 2% reduction
0274 733444				

BANKS

Abbey National	13.05	£20K+	100	
0908 691122				

OTHER (INSURANCE COMPANY)

Local & General	12.75	£75K+	95	Rate after 2% cut for first 3 months
071 489 8802				

Figures supplied by City's Guides Ltd. Telephone 0933 080602.

The 1990 M&G Year Book

40 pages of facts, figures and performance statistics on lump sum and savings plan investment in M&G unit trusts managed by M&G Securities Limited (member of IMRO and Lautro) and the M&G PEP managed by M&G Financial Services Limited (member of IMRO).

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M&G

BRITAIN'S LEADING UNIT TRUST GROUP

BRIEFINGS

WILLMAKER, based in London, is launching a will-writing service combining a telephone helpline, an easy to read summary, and an immediate refund to dissatisfied customers. Its postal service costs £49.95 for a full will and a further £25 for a mirror will.

Guinness Flight, the investment management arm of Guinness Mahon, the merchant bank, has launched the first offshore fund investing solely in high-yielding European bonds. The European High Income Bond Fund aims to provide a yield of about 11.5 per cent.

NEM Insurance is introducing a home protection policy based on the number of bedrooms and the postal address. Aspects One-to-Five, which will cover up to £30,000 in household possessions, will offer a discount of 20 per cent to first time buyers and a 5 per cent "maturity" discount for those over age 55.

Barclays Bank is launching a new telephone helpline to offer advice on tax exempt special savings accounts (Tessas) to be introduced on January 2. Savers can dial 0800 400 144 free from 8 am to 10 pm weekdays and from 9 am to 5 pm on Saturdays. The bank also plans a 24-hour telephone service for Tessa clients to arrange transactions outside normal hours.

Holders of Eurocards, International Citrus cards, Eurocheque cards and all types of Mastercard, will be able to use Midland Bank's 2,000 cash dispensers from Monday. The link will also enable Midland-issued Eurocheque cards to be used in more than 20,000 European cash machines in 16 European countries.

Research published this week by the Leeds Permanent Building Society shows that fixed-rate mortgages are becoming increasingly popular with customers opting for larger loans. Alistair Thomson, mortgage marketing man-

ager, said: "When fixed rates are typically 1.5 per cent lower than the normal variable rate, discerning borrowers quickly realise that rates have to come down at least twice over the fixed period before they begin to lose out."

Among fixed-rate loans currently on offer is the 11.95 per cent (12.9 per cent APR) mortgage from Peter Gargery, of Leeds, fixed for the next three years.

Godfrey Jillings, former senior executive at National Westminster Bank, takes up his new role as chief executive of the Financial Intermediaries, Managers and Brokers Regulatory Association (Fimbra) on Monday, replacing Ray O'Brien, who retired in August due to ill health.

Bradford and Bingley Building Society is to run a large national television advertising campaign and is issuing a leaflet to raise public awareness of the benefits of independent financial advice. The move follows the publication of a survey revealing that 54 per cent of people were unable to name an independent financial adviser, even though 64 per cent agreed that they were likely to provide the best advice.

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0800 282 101

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LETTERS

Fighting plastic card fraud

From Mr Mervyn Gibson
Sir, I was concerned to read Mrs Elizabeth Orr's letter (November 17) outlining her frustration caused by a delay in Barclaycard confirming whether or not she was dealing with a potentially fraudulent transaction using a stolen card.

As a retailer Mrs Orr has an arrangement with a bank for the processing and settlement of card transactions. The correct procedure is for her to call that bank who will then obtain by agreed inter-bank procedures - the information she requires.

Mrs Orr is to be congratulated on her public spirited effort to prevent a credit card fraud being perpetrated. It is essential that banks and retailers work together in the fight against plastic card fraud. She was right to be suspicious when the signature on the strip didn't match that on the card.

Card fraud has increased enormously in the last two years and all banks are working together on joint projects to defeat the fraudsters. These are non-competitive issues between banks and as chairman of the inter-bank group coordinating our work on plastic card fraud, much of which is organised crime, I can assure

your readers that we are determined, with the help of retailers like Mrs Orr, to win. Yours faithfully,
MERVYN GIBSON,
Managing director,
Barclays Merchant Services,
Barclays Bank,
Public Relations Department,
Johnson Smirke Building,
4 Royal Mint Court, EC3.

From Mr Andrew McGahey
Sir, I read with interest Elizabeth Orr's recent experiences with Barclaycard (November 17).

Whilst shopping with our six week old daughter my wife's handbag, including her Barclaycard, was stolen. The incident was duly reported to the police on the day of the theft (September 13), phoned through to Barclaycard that afternoon and, as requested by her bank, confirmed in writing. On October 4, my wife received her usual monthly Barclaycard statement which itemised a cash advance of £200 together with a £3 handling charge on September 24 - some ten days after the card was stolen!

I wrote to Barclaycard on October 14 requesting a full investigation as to how an individual is able to withdraw cash on a card that has been

reported as stolen. I pointed out that the individual would steal again believing he would be in a position to make cash withdrawals without being apprehended.

I have yet to receive a response to my letter from Barclaycard. To compound matters further my wife has recently received her November statement itemising a £4.07 interest charge on the

previous balance. I can only reiterate the final sentence of the letter from Elizabeth Orr asking whether or not Barclaycard really have the stomach to fight fraud and theft or are they willing to continue to supply free cash withdrawals to any thief able to acquire one of their cards?
Yours faithfully,
ANDREW MCGAHEY,
74 Kingscourt Road, SW16.

Trade description?

From Mr Don Fair
Sir, Like Mr O'Leary (November 17) and Messrs Petersen and Money-Coutts (November 24) I am most concerned at Bupa's decision to exclude the participants of their so-called lifelong protection scheme from their arrangements for tax allowances under the government's new provisions to help the over 60s.

Further to the points made by those writers, I suggested to Bupa that an alternative solution to their problem might be for them to pay off the lifelong protection element to the participants on an actuarial basis. They answered that the lifelong protection element has no surrender value. Is this a reasonable response?

I am already concerned enough that because of inflation and Bupa's policy of increasing the loading on old people's subscriptions, the proportion of my annual subscription covered by my participation in their lifelong protection scheme has fallen from a half, seven years ago, to only a fifth of my subscription today.

Is this "protection" in terms of the Trades Description Act?

Yours truly,
DON FAIR,
6 Pembroke Villas, W8.

Unfair weighting

From Mr D.R. Mitchell
Sir, It is ridiculous that the employees of major service companies in the Southeast are being clobbered by the Inland Revenue over beneficial loans tax merely because of the cost of housing.
Yours faithfully,
D.R. MITCHELL,
89 Halfway Street,
Sidcup,
Kent.

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Ask for our new booklet now.
Ring our free Moneyline from 9.30 a.m. - 5.30 p.m., 7 days a week, on
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THE INVESTMENT HOUSE

letter he received from the bonds and stock office which said that "the earlier premium bond numbers appear less often in the list of winners". He believes this means that newer bonds have a better chance of winning.

The older numbers do not appear so often in the prize lists because nowadays there are fewer of them. The reason is that over the years many of the earlier bonds have been cashed in. Ernie draws numbers completely at random and he simply does not know whether the numbers belong to bonds bought a long time ago. All eligible bond numbers, whatever their age, have an exactly equal chance of being drawn for a prize.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN A. PATTERSON,
Director of Savings,
Department for National Savings,
Charles House,
375 Kensington High Street,
W14.

Ernie rules

From Mrs A.G. Connelly
Sir, May I add a word to the recent correspondence about Ernie. As many of your writers have pointed out, we all know people who have won small sums (£50 or £100) but have yet to hear of a major winner. Are there any guarantees that it isn't all a sham?

Unclaimed prize money is apparently put into a special fund where it stays in perpetuity. When I wrote to ask why it cannot be redistributed after a period of time (say, seven or ten years) I was told this was not possible.

Who makes the rules, and how can they be changed?

Yours faithfully,
A.G. CONNELLY,
8 Palmerston Road,
Edinburgh.

From the director of National Savings
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letter he received from the bonds and stock office which said that "the earlier premium bond numbers appear less often in the list of winners".

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Edinburgh.

From the director of National Savings
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He believes this means that newer bonds have a better chance of winning.

The older numbers do not appear so often in the prize lists because nowadays there are fewer of them. The reason is that over the years many of the earlier bonds have been cashed in. Ernie draws numbers completely at random and he simply does not know whether the numbers belong to bonds bought a long time ago. All eligible bond numbers, whatever their age, have an exactly equal chance of being drawn for a prize.

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The idea of the original ombudsman, otherwise known as the parliamentary commissioner for administration, was so much appreciated that in the past decade it has spread, via various public authorities, into the private sector.

Starting with an ombudsman for insurance, there are now others for banking, building societies, unit trusts and estate agents — not to mention occasional employees of newspapers attracted by the title.

Two of the ombudsmen are so busy that deputy ombudsmen are needed.

The established ombudsmen have just been joined by an ombudsman for legal services and another for pensions, while a third for conveyancing is on the way, doubtless to be followed in due course by others.

But the term "ombudsman" does not in itself constitute an adequate job description. What

any ombudsman is supposed to do depends entirely upon the individual terms of reference.

For some ombudsmen, the decisions must strictly comply with the law. Others may be equitable or "fair in all the circumstances". Some of the procedures are traditionally adversarial, others exercise inquisitorial powers; some ombudsmen merely peruse papers, others hold more or less informal hearings; for some strict confidentiality prevails over the principles of natural justice, others copy everything to each side; some of the awards are traditionally binding and probably enforceable, but sometimes only against one party; some may be taken on appeal or by way of case stated to



COMMENT
JULIAN FARRAND
INSURANCE OMBUDSMAN

the courts, others cannot (judicial review presumably apart).

Beyond the job, the basic schemes differ: some are statutory, compulsory and comprehensive, while others are voluntary, with usually a friendly but not necessarily a full or fixed membership. Again their operation varies.

Persons interested in being an ombudsman should scrutinise the methods, conditions and periods of appointment plus

likelihood of renewal, searching perhaps for that security of tenure upon which the independence of dons used to depend. Equally, enquiries might well be pursued about such mundane matters as funding and budgeting, staffing and accommodation, reporting and managing, to say nothing of pay and delegation.

In my opinion, all the existing distinctions of significance between ombudsmen are of legitimate public interest, if not con-

cern. As a fashionable form of alternative dispute resolution made available to customers, past, present or future, of large service industries, the schemes cannot properly be treated as purely private ventures.

Of course, it is hardly surprising nor really worrying that there should be differences of form or substance: each ombudsman was established in reaction to peculiar perceived needs or demands and the dissimilar features of their schemes could be easily justifiable.

But the overriding picture is in danger of becoming bewildering in the public perception. The confusion is compounded by the fact that there are also numerous others doing an ombudsman-like job who are called something else

— for example, observer, referee, or complaints investigator.

This somewhat chaotic situation is certainly reminiscent of the early ad hoc development of administrative or inferior tribunals — those dealing, beneath or outside the courts, with rents, employment, national insurance, service pensions, and so on. Increasing criticism of their perceived inconsistencies of practice and principle eventually produced the Council of Tribunals, essentially to take an authoritative overview of their creation and performance.

My suggestion is that a similar body should be constituted to watch the watchdogs and overhear their masters' voices. Objective and informed observers should be able to check, both comparatively and fundamentally, that each ombudsman-like job was not only set up properly but is also run as well as done acceptably.

NON-TAXPAYERS will be able to register with the Inland Revenue from Monday to receive gross interest on bank or building society accounts after April 6 next year. All others will have the basic rate of 25 per cent deducted from their interest when the 22 per cent composite tax is abolished at the same time (Richard Irving writes).

But taxpayers whose building societies or banks pay their annual interest after April will find themselves receiving a lower rate of interest than those collecting interest before the April cut-off date. Investors paid annual interest in May, for example, will be paid at the lower rate, even though in theory they should qualify for the higher rate for all but one month.

According to some estimates, the tax change could cost investors up to 0.5 per cent in interest in the first year.

An Abbey National spokesman believed the figure to be nearer 0.3 per cent. The bank's high interest cheque account currently pays 8.3 per cent, which falls to 7.99 per cent when basic rate tax is deducted.

To avoid losing interest through these tax changes, Raymond Peyre, joint managing director of Wentworth-Rose, a financial adviser based in Ascot, Berkshire, is recommending clients to close their accounts on April 5 and re-invest the proceeds on April 6. "In this way they will receive the higher net rate of interest available for the maximum period possible."

Investors in 90-day accounts will need to give notice to close in the near future to avoid losing interest, while those in term accounts should elect to take interest monthly from now until March to benefit from higher rates, he said.

But the amount of money investors will save depends principally on the date that annual interest is due to be paid. For example, a basic rate taxpayer who invests £10,000 in the Woolwich Building Society's Prime Gold account,

Moment arrives to note interest



Birrell: 'beneficial' which pays interest in September, will save £20.5 in tax liability by following this advice. The saving halves to just £10 on an account paying out at the end of December.

"Investors should consider their individual tax position carefully before taking any action," said a Woolwich spokeswoman.

"In particular, non-taxpayers should do nothing until after April 6, when they may be able to claim back interest they would otherwise have lost."

"Basic rate taxpayers hovering close to their upper limit should also be careful lest a second interest payment in the same tax year pushes them into the higher-rate bracket."

The plea for caution is echoed by Nationwide Anglia, which suggests that in many cases the saving will simply not justify any action.

"Investors are far better off looking for an account that will provide for them under the new tax laws," said a spokesman. The society was launching a new range of schemes next week that would allow joint account holders to

receive interest part gross and part net of tax, he added.

Nevertheless, some building societies, particularly those paying annual interest around September or October, are offering investors the opportunity to take any interest accruing to them at the higher rate before the new changes apply.

The Leeds Permanent Building Society is offering an early interest payment to more than 1.5 million investors. David Andrew, head of savings and investments, said: "The payment, which applies to Solid Gold, Special Deposit and Liquid Gold accounts will enable investors to maximise the return on their savings without having to go through the process of closing and re-opening their accounts."

Similar offers are being made to Abbey National investors, while the Nationwide will "respond to requests on an individual basis".

□ The Halifax will split interest on joint accounts and will quote new gross interest on all its accounts from February 1 next year (Sara McConnell writes).

Existing rates will apply on Halifax accounts until January 31 except for Maximo, Monthly Income Xtra, and 90 Day Xtra, which pay income monthly. Rates will not change on these accounts until March 31. Leaflets explaining the tax changes to customers and Inland Revenue forms will be available from Halifax branches from Monday.

Jim Birrell, Halifax chief executive, said: "The new tax arrangements will be beneficial to a large number of our investors. We intend to do all we can to ensure our customers receive full information on these important changes."

The Inland Revenue has also published a leaflet explaining who is entitled to receive bank and building society interest tax free. Savers can pick this up from banks building societies, post offices and tax offices from Monday. In mid-January every household will receive a copy of the leaflet.

Gem of an investment loses any sparkle under shady Hanover

By TONY HETHERINGTON

SAPPHIRES are where the smart money is going. Gains of 25 per cent are on the cards within the next six weeks, and investors can double or even treble their money by the end of 1992. Natural green sapphires from Sri Lanka present a particularly good investment, because half of the mines producing them have been closed by civil strife.

Not many people know this, but I do because John Sheppard told me. John works for the Hanover Assets Trading Company, a precious stone dealer in Amsterdam. A few days ago he rang me up to offer two remarkable investment opportunities.

Unfortunately, there were one or two little details he left out of our conversation.

□ Neither of Hanover's two recorded directors is in the gemstone business.

□ The business is actually in the hands of two Canadians whose past is littered with collapsed companies.

□ Sri Lanka's sapphire mines are not affected by the Tamil insurrection.

According to Hanover's advertising literature, "perceptive investors around the world have made fortunes by accumulating, increasingly, scarce and steadily appreciating certified gems."

This optimism was reinforced when Mr Sheppard telephoned. A Ronald Reagan sound-alike, he asked: "I am sure you are interested in making important money, aren't you?"

Assured that I was, he continued: "The situation is extremely good right now to receive substantial profits in a very short period of time, and I'll tell you how."

"Our strongest recommendation right now at this moment is the green natural sapphires from Sri Lanka, which I'm sure you're aware has been under internal warfare between the Tamils and government forces for several years."

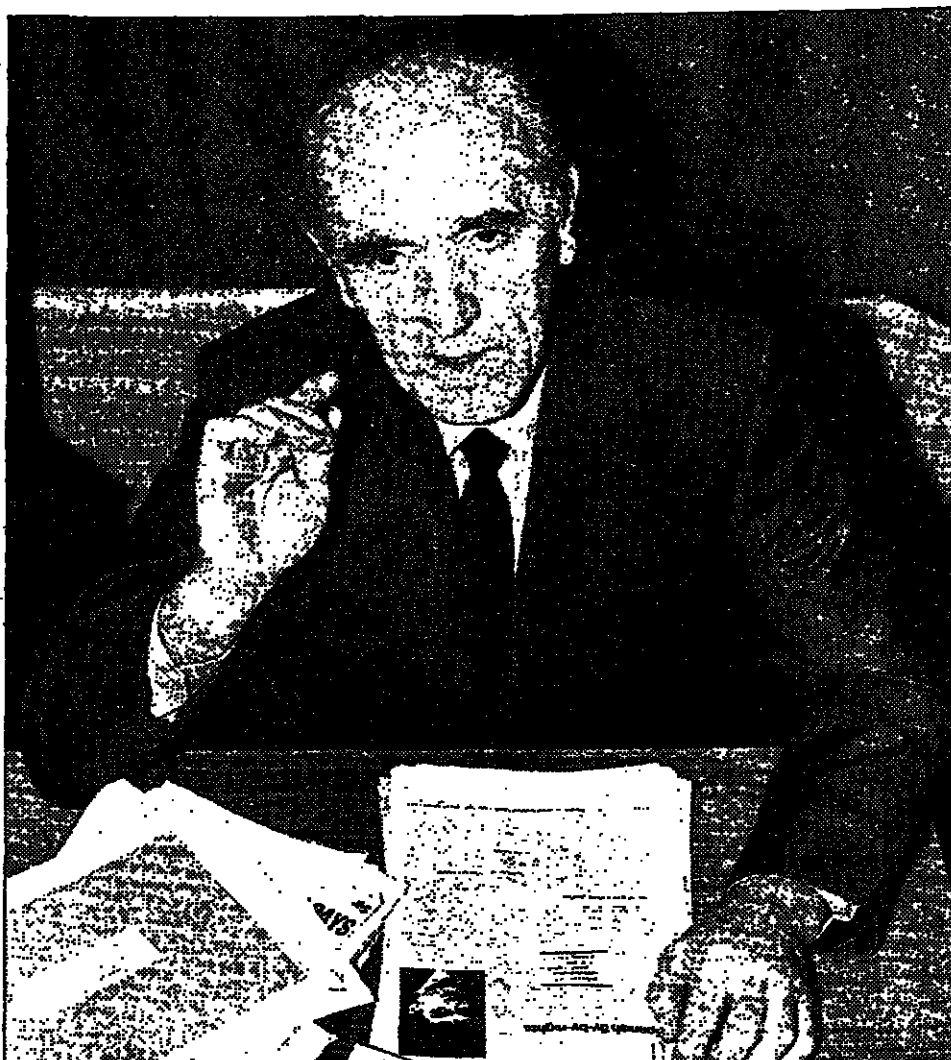
"Of the four major mine sites, two have been blown up by the rebels. Production of investment quality gems has dropped by 70 per cent."

After claiming a 25 per cent price rise was imminent, Mr Sheppard came to the point. "I've two positions available today, and we want to get you started in a small way, to show you what the market is all about."

"I have a 1.72 carat natural green sapphire. It is £2,630, with a \$50 one-time administration cost."

And, in case these carats were too small, Mr Sheppard could offer me something a little larger, an identical stone except that it measured 1.96 carats and cost \$3,410 — plus the extra \$50, of course.

All he needed was my Visa card number, please. When I expressed some hesitation at the idea of giving my card number to someone I had never met, to pay for some-



Vanishing act: Geoff Mitchell lost thousands to one of the men behind Hanover

thing I had never seen, he was quite understanding.

"We have done a lot of business with Visa," he said. "If we weren't to send out exactly what we said, they would pull our card on us."

So perhaps I could talk to my bank manager first? Mr Sheppard shot me a winking glance down the phone. "With all due respect, does your bank manager know anything about the precious gem market?" No, I answered, but he does know about Visa.

Mr Sheppard warmed to his theme. "Your guarantee of safety, yes, is the Visa company. That guarantees you protection. That guarantees you delivery. And it guarantees you exactly what I say is fact. So let's get started with it, go ahead with it... what is the expiry date on your card?"

When I again demurred, Mr Sheppard reluctantly agreed to call me back in 30 minutes, after I had spoken with my bank. But as I spent most of the next two hours on the telephone, it was rather longer before we spoke again.

A call to the Amsterdam Chamber of Commerce established that the directors of Hanover are David and Christine Lowry, who live not in Amsterdam but the tiny port of Castletown on the Isle of Man. And a call to Mrs Lowry established that she knew nothing about gemstones and roughly the same amount about Hanover.

Was Mr Lowry an inter-

national dealer in precious stones? "No, no, he is not involved in the jewellery business at all," she said.

So are the Lowrys mere nominees, concealing the identities of the true controllers of Hanover? "It is much better if you speak to my husband about it." Unfortunately, Mr Lowry was away and not available for comment.

Who, then, is really behind Hanover Assets? Legal sources in the Netherlands quickly came up with two names, both Canadians, and both with a long history as wallet-thinner: Alexander Funt, and Barret Altweger.

Mr Funt was one of the owners of Mercantile Benedict, a Brussels company that sold shares over the telephone in the same way that Hanover sells gemstones. In 1986, the Belgian authorities closed the firm in the public interest.

Mr Funt then worked from Société Financière Benedict in Switzerland. But, in 1987, it went bankrupt. Both companies had heavily promoted shares in tiny businesses such as Textech, which claimed a miracle process for dyeing cloth, and Key Projects, a biotechnology firm with a patent on a blood treatment system. Every company promoted by Mr Funt vanished from view when he did.

Mr Funt re-emerged in Barcelona as the helm of Commercial Union, a share-pushing business that cheekily adopted the name of the rather

larger and totally unconnected insurance company. The same pattern followed: unknown stocks were promoted as world beaters, only to vanish when Mr Funt himself dropped from sight.

One of Mr Funt's clients, Geoff Mitchell from Tyne and Wear, invested £2,600 in Textech, £10,390 in Key Projects, and £2,370 in a third company, Vanguard Financial. All three disappeared.

When Mr Sheppard called back I told him I had my doubts about his company. Unabashed, he repeated his favourite theme: "The Visa company would not bond us if they thought people were concealing anything."

Visa itself said that it was "aware of enquiries concerning Hanover Assets". A spokeswoman said its representatives in the Netherlands were "taking steps".

Vanguard was found by the American authorities to be an outright fraud. Mr Mitchell lost every penny.

But his name is still on Mr Funt's files. "I've had two mailshots from Amsterdam about gemstones," he said. "One was from Hanover Assets." Needless to say, Mr Mitchell will not be accepting Mr Funt's latest offer of investment advice.

Mr Altweger's past is even more colourful than Mr Funt's. Now in his seventies, Altweger has been known to the Canadian authorities for almost half a century. He has convictions for fraud and gambling offences, and his numerous past swindles are matched only by the number of his known aliases: Barney Auld, Barney Ames, Ernest Auld, Ernest Altweger, and Archie Bennett.

While Mr Funt was running Mercantile Benedict in Brussels, Altweger was operating BA Investment Advisory Services in Amsterdam. His vanishing companies included Scherlock Security Systems, marketed at 95c before it disappeared when the Netherlands government closed his brokerage business and made Mr Altweger bankrupt.

So, despite all this, could Mr Sheppard's offer of sapphires be legitimate? Not a chance. According to Philip Stocker, consultant valuer with the National Association of Goldsmiths, green sapphires are close to worthless.

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THE INVESTMENT HOUSE

More Castlegate firms fail

By SARA MCCONNELL

TWO more companies linked to the Castlegate Group have been taken into administrative receivership, Brandon Finance and Walford Finance both operated under Castlegate's Capital Fund Owners Plan, which offered a 20 per cent return to investors with a minimum of £250,000.

This money was used as working capital to set up limited companies making second and third mortgage advances to home owners. About 60 companies were operating under the plan, including Applied Finance and Advance Finance based in Reading, Berkshire, which were taken into administrative receivership on October 19, a month prior to these latest two.

Sorsky's Specialised Finan-

cial Services has been appointed joint administrative receiver of Brandon Finance and Walford Finance.

Harold Sorsky, one of the partners, said: "We've not been able to do much because the Serious Fraud Office has taken away books and papers relating to the case. We expect to be able to start in the next couple of weeks. We were called in by a bank which is owed money on mortgage repayments."

The premises of Castlegate in London Street, Reading, were raided by the Serious Fraud Office (SFO) on November 9 and a large quantity of papers was taken away. The brick building is now apparently shut up and was repainted last Wednesday. No-one has been answer-

ing the telephone in recent days.

The officer in charge of the investigation at the Thames Valley Fraud Squad, which is working in conjunction with the SFO said: "We have seen enough to confirm our concerns at the way Castlegate managed these smaller companies. Our enquiries centre around the management by Castlegate of money lent to borrowers by investor companies for the specific purpose of buying property."

Roy Wharton, Castlegate's group chairman, said at the time of the SFO raid: "Lenders throughout the country, including building societies and secondary lenders, are facing severe difficulties with mortgage arrears and our lending companies are no exception."

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Withdrawals from a Term Share account are normally subject to 60 days' notice without penalty after two years, but notice closing the account can be given 60 days before the end of the two-year term.

No additions can be made to any Term Share account apart from compounding of interest, but further Term Share accounts may be opened while the issue is available.

At the end of the two-year term the investment is NOT REPAYED, but remains at 60 days' notice.

although the Society reserves the right to convert the account to Ordinary Shares on giving 60 days' notice after the two-year term has expired. INTEREST is added to the account annually, on 15th March or paid by warrant on 31st March.

Rate subject to variation, but the rate for a basic rate taxpayer is GUARANTEED to remain AT LEAST 5.0% ABOVE the Society's equivalent ordinary share rate for the FIRST TWO YEARS of the investment.

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Invisible man makes presence felt at the Stock Exchange

By CAROL LEONARD

BUSINESS PROFILE

Andrew Hugh Smith

Andrew Hugh Smith was wandering about the Royal Academy of Art's summer exhibition in 1989. It was a private viewing, sponsored by a merchant bank, and the Academy was littered with recognisable City personalities. He moved from room to room, a benign smile on his face as he stared at each painting in turn.

It was extraordinary that this man, the chairman of the International Stock Exchange, was able to move about the building entirely unimpeded. Not one of the assembled City dignitaries turned to greet him. Not even ritual exchanges of raised eyebrows as a muted sign of mutual recognition. The fact is, most people have never heard of Andrew Hugh Smith. Unlike his forerunner, Sir Nicholas Goodison, he has adopted a low profile ever since he was handed control of the exchange — and, for the first time, a £144,000 salary — in 1988.

When his appointment was announced Hugh Smith refused to hold a press conference or to be photographed. He had been the senior partner of a second tier stockbroking firm, Capel Cure Myers, and was not widely known. The *Times* responded by publishing a cartoon of a man in a pinstriped suit with a paper bag over his head. Two City gents were walking behind him. "It must be the new chairman of the Stock Exchange," said one to the other. That cartoon encapsulated City sentiment. He was dubbed "Andrew Hugh Who?"

"It was very awkward at the time," Hugh Smith now proffers by way of explanation. "I was elected in the summer but Nicholas stayed on as chairman until the beginning of November. It made it difficult for me to give my own personal views, with him still in charge. But, equally, it can be useful to have time to find your way."

There are those that would argue, however, that this aversion to publicity, even if he is now slowly overcoming it, is far more deep-seated than that.

His friends and detractors are now largely in agreement that he is not just a quiet man, he is quietly determined. He is a man who has proved, by action rather than words, that he gets things done. But they are also in agreement that the most overwhelming impression he creates, even at the age of 59, is of enormous shyness.

Hugh Smith admits that he was "painfully shy" as a child. "I would hop up and down wondering what an earth to say next, if I found myself talking to another little boy or a little girl at a party."

His initial choice of career was as a barrister. But while he found law "fascinating", standing up to speak in public was quite another matter. "I got used to it after a while but I should think I sounded pretty awful. I always felt very nervous. I practised for about three years but I never really got very far. In the end I came to the conclusion that perhaps it was not a life that suited me."

Court work has, after all, often been likened to the theatre. Hugh Smith does not disagree, adding, "I have never had the slightest inclination to go on the stage. It wouldn't have suited me."

"No, he is not a theatrical performer, nor a charismatic speaker," says one of his closest City colleagues, Peter Stevens, who until recently was deputy chairman of the exchange and is now managing director of GT Management, the fund management group.

"But if you look at the content of his speeches it's all there. There is nothing flamboyant about him; he plods on. But he knows exactly where he wants to go and he is determined to get there. He has

great unflappability and thinks everything through carefully before he speaks.

"He is a very civilised chap. You could not imagine being stabbed between the shoulder blades by him. But a lot of people cannot see the steel that runs right through him. If you underestimate him you will come off the loser."

Another council member, John Woolfenden, agrees that initial assessments of Hugh Smith have turned out to be entirely wrong. "I don't know of any doubters on the council any more," he says, admitting that there had once been many. "I was worried myself at first, but now I'm impressed with him. He might be softly spoken but he knows how to chair a meeting and he has grown in stature with the job. He has changed."

Andrew Beeson, also once a Capel-Cure Myers partner, thinks Hugh Smith's shyness is responsible for what is often erroneously interpreted as an arrogant air. "I don't think he finds it all that easy to mix in a crowd, to make small talk and socialise."

That would certainly explain his behaviour at the summer exhibition. He is seen, in short, as a likeable but curiously lonely figure. "I do not feel isolated at all but I do hate cocktail parties," Hugh Smith concurs. He insists, however, that it is not due to shyness alone.

"I am slightly deaf — from shooting without mufflers. That makes it very difficult to pick out one voice from another in a hubbub. But I enjoy company. I would hate to live by myself. I just find it tremendously difficult to be friendly with the people I work with closely. Business always gets in the way."

But Hugh Smith often does live by himself during the week in Little Venice, returning home to his wife Venetia at their 18th century Buckinghamshire rectory at weekends. They married 26 years ago, five years after they had met at a London party.

"My wife prefers to live in the country," Hugh Smith says. "A lot of men working in the City live similar lives."

His wife trains gun dogs, an interest shared with her husband since he is also chairman of Holland & Holland, the gun maker. The eldest of their two children, David, aged 23, has just come down from Trinity College, Cambridge — coincidentally his father's old college — with a degree in history. Peter, aged 21, is reading geography at Reading.

Hugh Smith himself comes from an establishment background. The eldest of three children from a comfortable middle class home, he belongs to the right clubs, Brook's and Pratt's.

His father was a Lieutenant-Commander in the Navy and, both before and after the war, worked in the City, latterly as chairman of a group of investment trusts. His brother was the commanding officer of the Blues and Royals, arguably the most posh regiment in the land, and also equerry in waiting to the Duke of Edinburgh.

Despite such military influences, the family's City tradition dates back to 1680 when his ancestors founded Smith's Bank in Nottingham. It was absorbed into the National Westminster empire 70 years ago. "One of my cousins was a director of NatWest

up until ten years ago," Hugh Smith adds.

His own arrival in the square mile came comparatively late in life. It was after two years' national service, his short-lived career as a barrister, and then a stint in marketing for Courtaulds. He joined Capel-Cure Myers, as it was then called, as a blue button on the exchange floor at the age of 38 — "I think I must have been the oldest blue button ever" — and admits it was "a bit of a culture shock".

"Stockbroking had a long way to develop. They all kept talking about good management and bad management, but the management of their own firms was pretty appalling. Some firms didn't know how much money they had made until the auditors found out at the end of the year. To have had some industrial experience was enormously valuable."

Evacuated to the Western Highlands during the war, he attended a village school there for a while and learnt Gaelic — "but I've forgotten it now" — and he still returns to the self-same village for holidays whenever he can, to "get away from the telephone and relax. I have a flat there. I go fishing and keep a small boat."

He is clearly at his happiest pursuing the outdoor life. Even as a small boy he kept ferrets to catch rabbits. "A local butcher used to give me 2s 6d for each rabbit I caught. One day I caught 40 and that was an awful lot of money then."

But he is far removed from the hale and hearty male usually associated with such field sports. As a pupil at Ampleforth College, the Roman Catholic boarding school in Yorkshire, he admits that he probably seemed "very studious" because he read a lot.

"I was never very good at games. I'm very blind, short sighted. I had to take my spectacles off for football and that meant that I could never see the ball. Academically I was reasonable. I got the equivalent of three A-levels."

Hugh Smith is still a committed Catholic and religion plays an important part in his life. "I go to church most Sundays," he says. "Religion makes you set certain basic standards of behaviour and I think that's quite important. When one has difficult periods it helps a lot. It gives a different dimension to life."

It is said to be because of these beliefs that he once banned strip-teases from the trading floor at Capel-Cure Myers. "I have a strong sense of humour, I laugh easily, but it is not a lavatorial sense of humour. I can be a wit and a bit of a raconteur, but I can never remember jokes. I am not the sort of person who flies off into great rages. I will perhaps come out with a curt remark instead. But I'm not enormously exacting. I expect a certain level of performance but I am also aware that we are all human."

Hugh Smith has certainly survived difficult periods during his first two years as chairman of the exchange. One of his earliest moves was to bring in Peter Rawlings as chief executive, replacing Jeffrey Knight.

It was an unpopular change at the time. But Rawlings has since proved himself a strong and able leader. Hugh Smith's decision has been vindicated.

"There was a period of uncertainty after Big Bang, but the exchange is now going in the right direction," says Hugh Smith.

"The City is still much the strongest financial centre in Europe and so long as we continue to provide services and operate flexibly and the government continues to support us, or at least does not get in our way, then I think we will remain the leading centre in

Europe." He admits that two years ago the weight of regulation in the square mile posed a very real problem, "but that regulatory regime is improving and is now being administered more flexibly".

He is also optimistic about the future for small shareholders, claiming that within the next couple of years, provided costs can be controlled, it should be viable for firms to handle holdings of as little as £1,000.

He admits that "firms are not making money at the moment, market conditions are very difficult indeed". He believes the perseverance of so many big firms "has been extraordinary", but that in earlier years "they saw the possibilities".

His own job has, by his own estimation, another three or four years to go. "I think five or six years is probably as long as anybody ought to do this job."

But the differences between him and Goodison are already apparent. "A lot of our joint friends would perhaps say that he is much more of an intellectual," says Hugh Smith. Some fellow council members complain that he consults them far less than Goodison. "I have tried to get far more work done by the executive staff. I think policy proposals should be worked out by staff in consultation with practitioners and the council."

"I don't think I have ever presented them with anything cut and dried, but the involvement of council members in policy formation is less than it was in the early stages. It's a more efficient way."

Hugh Smith thinks he was elected to the job because "people see me as being trustworthy and sensible. Someone with reasonable intelligence. A safe pair of hands".

But he is not as dry, boring and coldly logical as that makes him sound. "I enjoy using my intellect but I don't depend on it totally. Underneath everything there is a certain amount of... emotion."

He now looks as awkward as he sounds. He is an emotional man then? "Yes, but I would never show it in public. If you get sent away to board at the age of eight it tends to breed a certain sense of independence."

He admits he gets "nostalgic for people and places" and has been known to cry. But in public he keeps it bottled up. He lets off steam by driving his car, a Saab, "fairly fast".

It becomes apparent then that Hugh Smith has not really changed after all. He is simply waiting to be recognised for what he really is. Those who work with him most closely have now radically revised their opinions. The time has perhaps come for others to do likewise.



Living for the City: Andrew Hugh Smith and his wife, Venetia, to whom he returns at weekends

A bridge too far on Danube

CAPITAL CITY

FROM ERNEST BECK IN BUDAPEST



Budapest: rivalling Vienna

WHEN Hungary shed communism last year and tore down its barbed-wire border with the West, it was Austrian businessmen bearing cash who were among the first to cross the frontier. Austria soon became Hungary's biggest foreign investor, priming the pump of reborn capitalism and sending a signal to the rest of Europe that the risk was worth taking.

Today, however, that friendship that harks back to the Habsburg empire has turned sour, as Budapest and Vienna lock horns over controversial plans to host the first dual city world exposition in 1995.

Tentatively called "Bridges to the Future", promoters say the fair will underscore the common history and destiny of the former royal capitals on the Danube. It is a particularly poignant theme following the end of the East-West political divide and the re-emergence of Mitteleuropa.

But instead of harmony, Expo has become a tangled tale of discord between the two economically unequal cities. Indeed, it may not take place at all.

The problem is simply money. Wealthy Vienna, with its well-established tourist trade, is ready and able to stage the extravaganza. Financing is assured by a banking consortium and the city's business community is decidedly gung ho for the project.

Poor Hungary, however, tottering on the brink of bankruptcy and saddled with a \$20 billion foreign debt, can ill-afford the estimated \$8 billion investment needed to enlarge and tidy up its already

overstretched tourism infrastructure.

Tension is palpable as the December 12 deadline approaches for a decision to be given to the Paris-based Bureau of International Exhibitions. Hungary's hesitancy was apparent last month when Gabor Demszky, a former dissident who is now the mayor of Budapest, travelled to Vienna to soothe Austrian angst over a possible pull-out and to make a plea for patience.

He suggested that the fair be postponed until 1996. Budapest, he added, might be able to stage a

cultural festival in conjunction with a Viennese exposition, but cannot be counted on as a full participant.

Budapest's fears are largely justified. Faced with the legacy of communist rule — including a chronic housing shortage, 30,000 homeless, a failing health system, decrepit roads, hopeless telephones and badly polluted air — building luxury hotels for up to 12 million extra environment-unfriendly visitors is not a priority.

Experts say that in addition to five star hotels, a new motorway and high speed rail link between the capitals, the city needs refurbished port and airport terminals, a new underground line and river bridges, not to mention complete redevelopment of the Expo site — the dilapidated industrial island of Csepel, south of Budapest.

Expositions are always tricky financial affairs. Studies show that nine out of ten never fully recoup direct capital investment.

Supporters say there are enough private sponsors to pay the bill. Enterprise International and Development, an American company, has even proposed taking on full responsibility for the technical and financial side.

Ferenc Rabar, Hungary's finance minister, who is struggling to tame a bloated budget with the International Monetary Fund looking on, has said bluntly: "There will be state expenditure for Expo only over my dead body."

Murder has not yet been mooted as a viable solution, but Austrian patience is wearing thin,

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SUMMARY

Loan code to curb excesses

BANKS and building societies are expected to reveal details of a new code of practice for loans this week that will curb some of the marketing techniques criticised by John Major, the new prime minister, in his Budget speech as chancellor this year.

The code is expected to urge greater care to be taken in promoting loans to younger people and in encouraging customers in financial difficulty to seek some immediate help. Page 44

Publicity shy

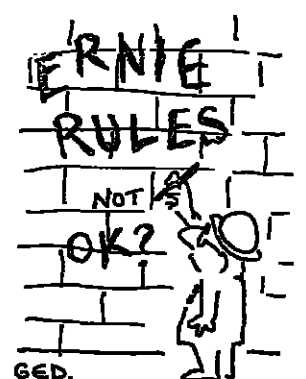


Andrew Hugh Smith, chairman of the International Stock Exchange, has a reputation among City colleagues for being overwhelmingly shy. Although he is gradually overcoming an aversion to publicity, he is still thought of as a quietly determined man for whom actions speak louder than words. He talks to Carol Leonard. Page 47

Lacklustre gems

Two Canadians whose past is littered with collapsed companies are behind a firm of precious gems dealers marketing natural green sapphires in Britain from an office in Amsterdam. The stones, which investors are told will double or even triple in value in the next two years, are nearly worthless according to an expert valuer. Page 46

Honest Ernie



Suggestions that Ernie is more likely to pick a recently-issued premium bond than an older one have been rejected by John Patterson, director of savings at the Department for National Savings. Fewer older numbers are winning because over the years many earlier bonds have been cashed in. Page 45

Jail threat

The judge who jailed two men at Southwark Crown Court for making multiple share applications in government privatisations indicated that the punishments should serve as a warning to those subscribing to the sale of the 12 electricity companies. Page 39

Bank warning

The Bank of England issued a warning through its market operations that it wants base rates to be held at 14 per cent despite pressure for an early cut. The City sees the move as a sign that Norman Lamont, the new Chancellor, wishes to establish that he is firmly in control. Page 38

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Tunnel of trouble

"I got picked on the most publicly by the contractors. That is where the legend grew up of my intransigence, the totally abrasive Morton. It was all inflated."

Alastair Morton, boss of Eurotunnel, in *The Sunday Times* tomorrow.

Plugging into the electricity sale

Martin Waller focuses on the strengths and weaknesses of the 12 regional distribution companies being privatised

APPLICATIONS for shares in the 12 electricity distribution companies in England and Wales close on Wednesday, and all application forms and cheques have to be received by 10 am that day.

Already 7.3 million people have registered for the special incentives available. If you have not registered yet, sadly you will miss out on these incentives, but there is no reason why you should not apply for the shares. The best incentives are only available if you buy shares in your local board and come in the form of money off electricity bills or bonus shares if you do not sell out immediately.

The incentives are undoubtedly generous and

mean that any serious long-term investor should certainly buy shares in their region. The stock market is taking the strong view that all 12 flotations will be a roaring success, assuming no conflagration in the Gulf. On this basis, you are unlikely to get all the shares you ask for and will probably have your application "scaled back". On Monday, *The Times* will consider the options for those who want to "stag" the issue and take a quick profit.

With one exception, the 12 split into three categories, those whose customers are mostly industrial, those with a larger proportion of domestic consumers and those with a mixed bag of customers.



EASTERN
ELECTRICITY

EASTERN: By both area and sales, the largest of the RECs, the government's chosen acronym for regional electricity companies. An earlier tag, "disco" for distribution companies, was dropped as being too flippant but is still sometimes heard.

Biased towards the domestic market, Eastern serves some of the fastest-growing regional economies in the country. This is reflected in the way the company has been priced. It contains some of the more depressed areas in north London but has lost very little supply business in the new competitive environment.



SOUTHERN: Seen along with Eastern as the strongest companies of the 12, and priced accordingly, Southern has low exposure to industry and a fast-growing and generally well-off population. This, however, has its disadvantages for investors; proportionately, the area contains a large number of households who have traditionally gone for privatisation issues, so the shares are likely to be scarce and heavy scaling-back is also likely.

The management is experienced and highly thought of in City circles.

What industry there is comprises small businesses in a diversity of sectors, so Southern could suffer least from a recession.



SEABOARD: Another REC heavily biased towards the domestic consumer and in a prosperous region, with scaling-back again likely. SEABOARD creeps into some parts of south London.

One problem facing the southern boards is that there is little real prospect of strong growth in demand. They will miss the seesaw effect experienced over the past decade by the industrial boards, who have seen demand vary wildly as regional economies prosper and then decline. But there is little chance, given the overcrowded nature of the region and the constraints on house-building, to bolt on large numbers of new domestic customers, who provide the bulk of profits.

Meanwhile the southerners, because of the regulatory regime in place ahead of the float, suffer the greatest constraints on raising prices much above the inflation rate.

SEABOARD, however, does have one advantage, the Channel tunnel, which will both provide a big new customer and help the local economy.



LONDON: The odd one out, in that its unique location places it outside the three categories. London has been penalised for its obvious advantages. These include the huge size of its domestic customer base, always the most stable part of a REC's business, and low maintenance charges, as most of the distribution network is underground.

The company's disadvantages should not be overlooked. Rates and wage levels are higher in the capital than elsewhere; it is also fair to say that the board has not inspired enormous confidence in the City.

Customers will probably concur with another of the City's views, that there is scope for improvement in the company's retail activities.



MIDLANDS: A mixed customer base puts Midlands in the middle of the range and proud of it, as the company itself says. It takes in not only the heart of the British manufacturing industry in the West Midlands but also a number of prosperous and fast-growing areas, in particular those set to benefit from the extensions of the M40.

The company is, therefore, far less reliant on the engineering industry than might have been thought.

Total sales have been climbing over the past few years, helped by the "Telford effect," the large number of commercial customers who have been attracted to the region.



EAST MIDLANDS: If its counterpart further west, Midlands, likes to be thought of as safe, East Midlands is keen to be seen as innovative, in so far as a REC can be.

The company is one of the keenest on own-generation projects, the eventual aim being to create the closest thing the industry has to a vertically-integrated utility.

Another mixed board, East Midlands lacks large conurbations but contains a sprinkling of towns such as Lincoln, Northampton and Kettering enjoying varying degrees of prosperity and providing homes to a diverse industrial base. Only last month the company put in place the financing for an ambitious £170 million power station at Corby, burning gas from the North Sea.



SOUTH WESTERN: Probably best-known for its four-strong helicopter fleet, built up to survey the more rugged parts of its area and look for downed power lines and now let out to the other RECs as a nice little profits earner on the side, South Western is not otherwise regarded as a high-flyer. A domestic board, it serves a prosperous area with good prospects for population growth. High maintenance costs, with heavy damage after last winter's gales.



YORKSHIRE: The company has strongly impressed the City, to the extent that insiders have been known to complain that it is situated in the wrong place, given the regional trends that hold prospects back.

One of the mixed boards, and with the advantage of easy access to coal and gas for generation projects, it has a number of large industrial consumers, particularly in the steel industry, who may eventually opt for own-generation, while its regional economy is not expected to grow at much more than the average rate.

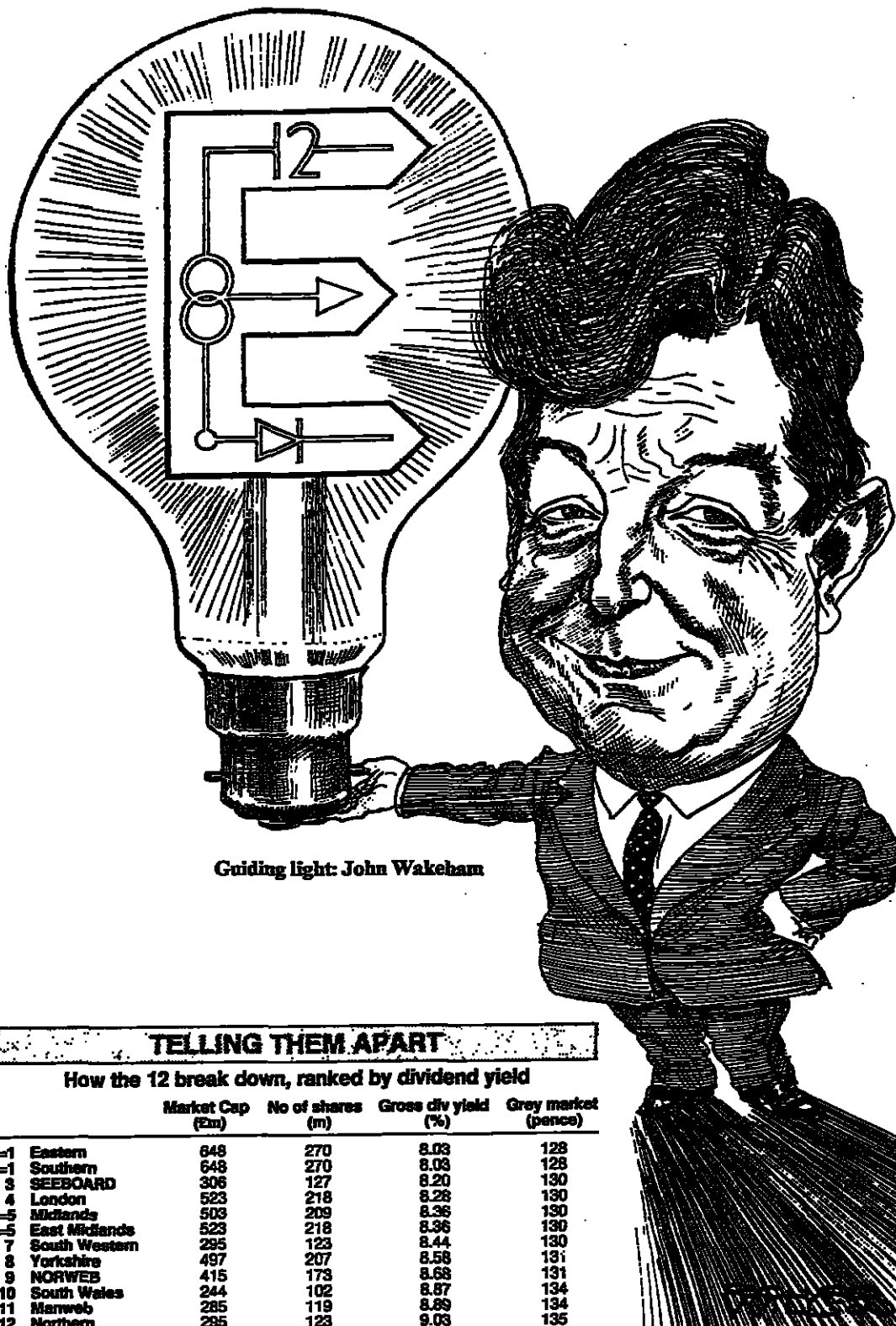
Keen on establishing some generation capacity of its own, Yorkshire has also been willing to keep its marginally-profitable supply business and compete for other areas. It has the advantage of the highest overall population density outside the Southeast.



NORWEB: Taking in Manchester and the Lake District up to the Scottish border, NORWEB has a heavy reliance on industrial consumers. But the company is less vulnerable to own-generation because its customer portfolio is widespread, taking in a number of firms rather than a few large users, and it is the latter, given the restrictions imposed on own-generation, that are most likely to be lost.

The company has pinned its own colours to the mast on generation by an involvement in the Lakeland power station, one of the country's first independents, now being built, in which NORWEB will have a 20 per cent stake.

None the less, an economic downturn would hit NORWEB harder than most of the RECs. NORWEB shares with Manweb the peculiarity of having to divide its attention between a big conurbation and a not particularly prosperous and sparsely-populated rural area.



Guiding light: John Wakeham

TELLING THEM APART

How the 12 break down, ranked by dividend yield

	Market Cap (£m)	No of shares (m)	Gross div yield (%)	Grey market (pence)
1 Eastern	648	270	8.03	128
2 Southern	648	270	8.03	128
3 SEABOARD	308	127	8.20	130
4 London	523	218	8.28	130
5 Midlands	523	218	8.28	130
6 East Midlands	523	218	8.28	130
7 South Western	295	123	8.44	130
8 Yorkshire	497	207	8.58	131
9 NORWEB	415	173	8.58	131
10 South Wales	244	102	8.87	134
11 Manweb	285	119	8.89	134
12 Northern	295	123	9.03	135



SOUTH WALES: Perceived as one of the weakest of the regional electricity companies because of the state of the local economy, South Wales and its management have acquired a strong reputation among City followers, and the shares are among the analysts' favourites, not least because of the high yield.

The company is one of the most heavily biased towards industrial users and can expect to lose the most business to competition. South Wales is, however, the smallest in terms of population and turnover.

MANWEB: Another City favourite, and like South Wales right at the top end of the dividend spread. An industrial board, Manweb also has to serve the isolated farming population of North Wales, which puts a strain on maintenance costs, as well as the city of Liverpool. This last brings its own problems, and Manweb staff tell hair-raising tales of trying to disconnect non-payers in some of the wilder areas of the conurbation.

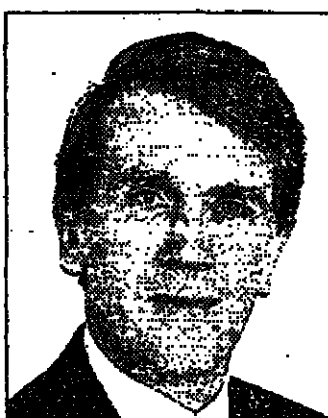
More than a quarter of the low-margin supply business has already been lost, and prospects for regional economic growth are limited, while own-generation remains a threat.

NORTHERN: It is fair to comment that the directors have failed to make much headway in the City, but the company's control of costs over the past ten years and its low level of bad debts have been singled out for approval. This probably means there is little room for further improvement.

Northern is very much the industrial board, half of its output going to such consumers, the most important the Teesside chemicals complexes. It is content to remain very much the tightly-run utility rather than branching out into generation.

Cheap offers on deals

Sara McConnell on the special terms that are available to successful power share applicants



Bell: valued customers

charged one commission for aggregated dealings.

Wise Speke, the private client stockbroker, is also offering families a bulk deal, charging one minimum £15 commission for family applications with the same surname. John Wardle, director of Wise Speke's Leeds office, said existing clients or those whose applications were submitted through his firm would be able to deal without interim certificates. Rowan Dartington is also allowing dealing in this way.

The privatisation is widely expected to be oversubscribed, so some building societies are offering to recredit accounts without loss of interest with savings withdrawn to buy shares. Town and Country Building Society announced this week that customers reinvesting cheques because they had not received their full allocation would not lose interest.

Ian Bell, Town and Country's managing director, said: "With the possibility of the electricity share issue being oversubscribed we would like our investors to know that we consider them valued customers and will therefore recredit any loss of interest to them if they reinvest with us." Cheques should be returned within three weeks of withdrawal.

Fleming Investment Trust Management is offering to swap electricity holdings for equivalent holdings in any of its 12 investment trusts for a standard charge of £7.50. The minimum value of the shares is £250.

□ Diameter, the broker, gave warning this week that 25 per cent of the electricity share applications so far received by them have been filled in wrongly. Most frequently, investors are not applying for the correct number of shares and not carrying forward their own electricity board application into the total amount requested.

Shares must be ordered in the number specified. Each application form needs a separate cheque, names and addresses should be written on the reverse of the cheques and the cheques should be pinned to the application form.

Application forms, pages 42 and 43

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